



JULY

2019



LIST OF
IMPORTANT
DAYS & DATES
JULY 2019

CURRENT AFFAIRS



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1. Veer Chotrani is associated to which sports?

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

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

2. Who is the current director of Intelligence Bureau?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. Which country has officially resumed commercial whaling?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- A) Dutee Chand B) Hima Das

- C) Sarita Gayakwad D) Sathi Geetha

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A) Entrepreneurship: A way of success

B) Big Money for Small Business: Financing the SDGs

C) The Youth Dimension

D) Small business – big impact

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

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

A) South Central Railway

B) Northern Railway

C) Central Railway

D) Western Railway

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

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

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

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

A) Anand Mahindra

B) Ratan Tata

C) Mukesh Ambani

D) Ajay Banga

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

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

A) Jhumpa Lahiri

B) Krishna Saksena

C) Vikram Seth

D) Rohinton Mistry

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

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

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

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

1. The scientists of India and which country have identified a new gene linked to schizophrenia?

A) South Africa

B) Russia

C) Australia

D) Belgium

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

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

A) Arctic ocean

B) Antarctica Ocean

C) Pacific ocean

D) Indian Ocean

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

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

A) Bikaner

B) Jodhpur

C) Jaipur

D) Udaipur

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

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

A) Infosys

B) Wipro

C) Microsoft

D) IBM

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

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

A) July 5

B) July 1

C) July 3

D) July 7

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 26th 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 20th 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 6th of July with theme 'Coops 4 Decent Work'.
-

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 1st 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 Rudrapur in Uttarakhand. It comes after Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat approved the proposal for establishing the mega Rs 750 crore mountain institute in Rudrapur 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

- ✓ The board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has finalized a 3- year roadmap — named Utkarsh 2022 — to improve regulation and supervision of the central bank. This medium term strategy is in line with the global central banks' plan to strengthen the regulatory and supervisory mechanism.
- ✓ This specifically includes central bank's proactive role to avoid any other IL&FS debt default issue in future. The RBI board also approved the RBI's budget for the July 2019—June 2020 period.

6. Which new method has been identified for predicting monsoon?

- A) Xenon-7 B) Krypton-7
C) Argon-7 D) Beryllium-7

- ✓ Lucrezia Terzi, a researcher at the Belgian Nuclear Research Centre (SCKCEN), has come up with a new way of predicting the monsoon at a science and technology conference organised in Vienna by the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO).
- ✓ The new method measures how much Beryllium-7 (an isotope of the element Beryllium) is present in the air. The Be-7 is chosen because it is created only in the stratosphere, when cosmic rays hit and break the nuclei of nitrogen and oxygen.
- ✓ Due to the sun warming the oceans differently at different latitudes, and the spin of the earth, water-bearing air moves up and down in circular fashions, which is the basic cause of the monsoons.
- ✓ When air flows down from the stratosphere (upwards of 33,000 feet from the earth's surface), it brings with it some Be-7. That makes the strong connection between the amount of Be-7 and the timing of monsoons.

7. Which new section has been inserted in the SEBI Act to act against entities that tamper or destroy electronic databases?

- A) Section 16A B) Section 18AA
C) Section 19HA D) Section 15HAA

- ✓ As per the Finance Bill 2019, a new section — 15HAA — has been inserted in the SEBI Act to act against entities that tamper or destroy electronic databases or fail to furnish information when sought by the capital markets regulator.
- ✓ Now, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) can impose penalties of up to Rs 1 crore on brokers for certain violations.
- ✓ These new powers assume significance as the regulator is in the midst of probing the leak of sensitive data through WhatsApp and also recently passed fresh orders on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) co-location matter, which had been challenged at the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT).

8. Which place in Kerala is slated to be home of India's first elephant rehabilitation centre?

- A) Kottoor B) Thrissur
C) Alappuzha D) Kollam

- ✓ India's first elephant rehabilitation centre will be set up by the Kerala Government in Kottoor, an ecotourism village near the state capital Thiruvananthapuram.
- ✓ The centre is expected to have an elephant museum, mahout training centre, super speciality hospital, a retirement home and crematorium for the animals. It will also house orphaned, injured and older elephants. It is being planned on the lines of the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage in Sri Lanka.

9. India's first cow sanctuary is located in which district of Madhya Pradesh?

- A) Neemuch B) Agar Malwa
C) Mandsaur D) Ujjain

- ✓ India's first cow sanctuary - Kamdhenu Gau Abhyaranya – is located in the Agar Malwa district of Madhya Pradesh. It is in news recently because the Congress-led government has decided to privatized the cow sanctuary due to financial crises.
- ✓ Around 4,000 cows are living in the sanctuary which is spread across 472 hectares. The sanctuary was developed by the MP Gau Samvardhan Board at a cost of Rs 32 crore.

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.
-

1. Who has become the first Indian sprinter to win Gold in the 100m event at the 30th 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 30th 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.

- ✓ 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

1. Prasara Bharati has signed MoU with which IIT for research collaboration in newly emerging technologies?

- A) IIT Delhi B) IIT Bombay
C) IIT Indore D) IIT Kanpur

- ✓ Prasara Bharati has signed MoU with IIT Kanpur for research collaboration in newly emerging technologies and broadcasting related areas in New Delhi.
- ✓ The move is likely to boost research activities in the broadcasting field. Direct to mobile broadcasting, Convergence of 5G, Artificial Intelligence Incubation Centre by Prasara Bharati and student internship for students of IIT Kanpur at Prasara Bharati are among the main areas in the research collaboration.

2. On which date, the 2019 edition of World Population Day is observed?

- A) July 10 B) July 11
C) July 12 D) July 13

- ✓ The World Population Day is observed every year on 11th of July to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues. Unlike every year, this year (2019) there is no specific theme but the day aims to draw attention towards maternal health.
- ✓ This year, the day calls for global attention to the unfinished business of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development.
- ✓ The landmark conference was attended by 179 governments who recognized that reproductive health and gender equality are essential for achieving sustainable development.

3. Who has been sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Greece?

- A) Kyriakos Mitsotakis B) Dimitris Koutsoumpas
C) Alexis Tsipras D) Fofi Gennimata

- ✓ Kyriakos Mitsotakis has been sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Greece. His party - New Democracy - won a landslide victory in the 2019 legislative election with a score of 39.85% of votes and 158 seats in the Hellenic Parliament.

4. Which Indian movie has won the NETPAC Award for Best Asian Film at the 23rd Bucheon Film Festival 2019?

- A) Gully Boy B) Kabir Singh
C) Bharat D) Super 30

- ✓ The film 'Gully Boy', directed by Zoya Akhtar, has won the Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema (NETPAC) Award for Best Asian Film at the 23rd Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival (BIFAN) in South Korea. It will also be screened at the 2019 Indian Film Festival of Melbourne.
- ✓ 'Gully Boy', which features actors Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt, is based on the lives of street rappers. It is inspired by the lives of Mumbai street rappers Vivian Fernandes aka Divine and Naved Shaikh aka Naezy.

5. Under whose chairmanship, the 2nd India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue (IRSED) was held in New Delhi?

- A) Ajay Narayan Jha B) Subhash Chandra Garg
C) Nirmala Sitharaman D) Rajiv Kumar

- ✓ On 10th July 2019, the 2nd India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue (IRSED) was held in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog.
- ✓ The meeting was focused on six core areas of cooperation viz. Development of Transport Infrastructure and Technologies; Development of Agriculture and Agro-Processing sector; Small and Medium Business support; Digital Transformation and Frontier Technologies; Cooperation in Trade, Banking, Finance, and Industry; and Tourism & Connectivity.
- ✓ The strategic dialogue was established following a bilateral MoU signed between the NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation during the 19th edition of the Annual India-Russia Bilateral Summit, which was held on 5th October 2018 in New Delhi.

6. Under which section of UAPA act of 1967, the Government of India has banned Sikhs for Justice (SFJ)?

- A) Section 3(2) B) Section 3(3)
C) Section 3(1) D) Section 3(4)

- ✓ 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 43rd 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 55th 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 12th 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 27th and 40th 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 8th & 9th 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) Sirá 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 represents 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

- ✓ The first-of-its-kind Global Conference for Media Freedom was co-hosted by the UK and Canada in London. The conference was aimed to strengthen media freedom around the world.
- ✓ It was attended by Prasara Bharati Chairman A Surya Prakash, Member of Parliament Swapna Das Gupta and Kanchan Gupta, Member of Press Council.

10. The Film Division of India (FDI) has launched a documentary film club "KSHITIJ" in which city?

- A) Pune B) Mumbai
- C) Delhi D) Jaipur

- ✓ In Mumbai, a documentary film club “KSHITIJ” has been launched by Film Division of India (FDI) in association with Indian Documentary Producer Association (IDPA).
- ✓ The public screenings will be organized on the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month during 5:00 pm - 6:30pm at Films Division Complex, followed by a short interaction of audience with the director / curator of the film.
- ✓ The acclaimed documentary film “Secret Life of Frogs” by Ajay & Vijay Bedi will be screened as the inaugural film. Films Division, established in 1948, has been relentlessly striving to maintain a record of the social, political and cultural imaginations and realities of the country on film.
- ✓ It works under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) to produce documentaries and news magazines for publicity of Government programmes and cinematic record of Indian history.

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

entrepreneurs for start-ups in different areas of agriculture.

- ✓ The Agri-Business Incubation Centre in Raipur, with focus on innovations, skill building and entrepreneurs development in agriculture and allied sectors, will act as catalyst for developing an ecosystem conducive for the growth of agri-preneurship in the state.

10. The 2019 Kharchi Puja Festival has celebrated in which state?

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

- ✓ On 11th July 2019, the centuries-old annual Kharchi Puja festival has started with great pomp & show at Puran Agartala in Tripura. The word 'Kharchi' is derived from the word Khya which means earth.
- ✓ Kharchi Puja is basically done to worship the earth. Originally a Hindu tribals' festivity, it is now observed by all communities and religions. The royal fest, which lasts for 7 consecutive days involves the worship of the 14 deities – Shiva, Durga, Vishnu, Laxmi, Saraswati, Kartik, Ganesha, Brahma, Abadhi (God of water), Chandra, Ganga, Agni, Kamdev and Himadri (Himalaya).

1. Who won the men's title at the 2019 Wimbledon tennis tournament?

- A) Rafael Nadal B) Roger Federer
C) Andy Murray D) Novak Djokovic

- ✓ In Tennis, Serbian Novak Djokovic won his fifth Wimbledon title after defeating Swiss tennis ace Roger Federer 7-6, 1-6, 7-6, 4-6, 13-12 in a match that lasted for more than 4 hours.
- ✓ The match had to be decided in the fifth set, as both Federer and Djokovic won two sets each in the longest ever final to be played so far. This is Djokovic's 16th Grand Slam and 5th Wimbledon title. He is now level with Bjorn Borg as a five-time Wimbledon winner.

2. Who has been adjudged player of the tournament at the 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup?

- A) Eoin Morgan B) Ben Stokes
C) Mark Wood D) Kane Williamson

- ✓ The captain of the New Zealand, Kane Williamson has been adjudged player of the tournament at the 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup for his excellent returns with the bat and inspiring leadership.
- ✓ On 14th July 2019, England lifted their first-ever ICC World Cup cricket trophy after defeating New Zealand in a nerve-racking final that was decided via a dramatic Super Over in London. Opting to bat, New Zealand put up a modest 241 for eight. In reply, England ended at the same score leading to the one-over eliminator at the Lord's.
- ✓ In the Super Over, England batted first and the duo of Ben Stokes and Jos Buttler made 15, and New Zealand also ended at the same score but for the loss of one wicket, paving the way for an English victory on boundary count. England's Ben Stokes is named player of the match for a heroic knock of 84 not out off 92 balls.

3. Pardeep Singh, who has created a new Commonwealth record in the clean and jerk category, is from which state?

- A) Haryana B) Punjab
C) Himachal Pradesh D) Uttarkhand

- ✓ Pardeep Singh from Punjab has created a new Commonwealth record in the clean and jerk category on the way to gold in the 109kg category by lifting 202 kgs at

the 2019 Commonwealth Championships (CWC) in Apia (Samoa).

- ✓ India's Vikas Thakur clinched the silver in the men's 96 kg event. Vikas lifted a total of 338 kg (153kg & 185kg). India ended their campaign with a rich tally of 35 medals in the youth, junior and senior categories, breaking numerous national, Commonwealth, world and Asian records.

4. Which Indian woman wrestler has won gold in the 53kg category at Yasar Dogu International in Istanbul?

- A) Kavita Devi B) Babita Kumari
C) Vinesh Phogat D) Sakshi Malik

- ✓ Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat has won gold in the 53kg category at Yasar Dogu International in Istanbul. Phogat beat her Russian opponent Ekaterina Poleshchuk 9-5 in the final match to bag the gold medal. It was third gold in the women's competition for India after Seema (50kg) and Manju (59kg) triumphed in their respective categories.

5. Which state has become the first Indian state to have water policy?

- A) Meghalaya B) Tamil Nadu
C) Rajasthan D) Himachal Pradesh

- ✓ Meghalaya has become the first state in India to approve a draft water policy to address water issues, conservation, and protection of water sources in the state. The draft policy was approved by the State Cabinet in a meeting chaired by state Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma.
- ✓ The purpose of the policy is to recognize water resources as a common pool resource, to provide safe and hygienic water for drinking, domestic and sanitation and livelihood development to all residents of the state. It seeks to protect and improve management of water resources while actively involving the community.
- ✓ It also aims at ensuring protection and conservation of catchment areas of all water sources to prevent degradation of the quantity and quality of water sources.

6. Which Indian movie has won the Best Feature Film award at the 2019 SAARC film festival?

- A) Walking With the Wind B) Village Rockstars
C) Nagarkirtan D) Na Bole Wo Haram!

- ✓ The critically acclaimed Bengali movie, Nagarkirtan has won the Best Feature Film award at the 9th edition of SAARC film festival 2019 in Colombo.
- ✓ The movie, which was directed by Kaushik Ganguly, has also won the 'Best Director', 'Best Actor' and Best Original Score awards. It's a love story of a transwoman and a flautist.
- ✓ Two other Indian films have won awards at the fest. 'Na Bole Wo Haram', a 20 minute film by debutant director Nitish Patankar, bagged the 'Best Short Film' award, while 'Walking with the Wind' by Praveen Morchhale received the Special Jury award for direction and story.

7. Which state government has observed the first-ever Save Water Day on 12th July?

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

- ✓ The West Bengal government has observed the first-ever Save Water Day on 12th July 2019 across the state to spread the message of water conservation.
- ✓ From now onwards, the day will be observed in the state every year to create awareness among people to check misuse of water. The state government also organized the Padayatra in Kolkata to save the natural resource as water scarcity has become a major issue in the world.

8. Who has been appointed the new Governor of Himachal Pradesh?

- A) Kalraj Mishra
B) Jagdish Mukhi
C) Lalji Tandon
D) Acharya Devvrat

- ✓ Kalraj Mishra, the former Union Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), has been appointed the new Governor of Himachal Pradesh.
- ✓ He replaced Acharya Devvrat, who has been transferred and appointed as the Governor of Gujarat. Mishra had resigned from the Modi led government as Minister for MSME in 2017 after he crossed the age of 75.

9. Hussain Muhammad Ershad, who passed away recently, was the former military dictator of which country?

- A) Myanmar B) Bangladesh
C) Pakistan D) Iran

- ✓ Hussain Muhammad Ershad (89), the former military dictator of Bangladesh, has passed away in Dhaka on July 14, 2019. He was the Jatiya Party chief and also the leader of the opposition in Parliament.
- ✓ He was born in 1930 in Coochbehar district of West Bengal state in the then British India. His parents migrated to present-day Bangladesh, which was then a part of Pakistan, in 1948, after the end of British colonial rule in the Indian subcontinent.
- ✓ In 1982, Ershad took over the state power in a bloodless coup and subsequently ran the country for 8 years until he was forced to quit in a pro-democracy mass upsurge in 1990.
- ✓ Despite being imprisoned subsequently on several charges, Ershad emerged as one of the most powerful political leaders in the 1990s after his Jatiya Party became the country's third biggest political outfit.

10. The Spektr-RG space telescope is a joint venture of which of the following countries?

- A) Russia & Germany** **B) India & Russia**
C) France & United States **D) China & South Korea**

- ✓ The Spektr-RG space telescope is a joint venture of Russia & Germany that will map X-rays across the entire sky in unprecedented detail.
- ✓ It has been successfully launched into the space from the cosmodrome in Baikonur, Kazakhstan on 13th July 2019. The Spektr-RG is a space observatory intended to replace the Spektr-R (Known as the “Russian Hubble”).
- ✓ The hope is Spektr-RG can provide fresh insights on the accelerating behaviour of cosmic expansion. It should also identify a staggering number of new X-ray sources, such as the colossal black holes that reside at the centre of galaxies.

1. Which actor is set to be honoured with honorary doctorate by Melbourne's La Trobe University?

- A) Priyanka Chopra B) Shah Rukh Khan
C) Madhuri Dixit D) Aishwarya Rai Bachchan

- ✓ In August 2019, Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan will visit Australia to attend the 10th edition of Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) as its chief guest.
- ✓ Here, he is set to receive an honorary doctorate degree from Melbourne based La Trobe University for his contributions and efforts towards underprivileged children, women's empowerment through Meer Foundation and his achievements in the Indian entertainment industry.
- ✓ La Trobe University is the first Australian university to award Khan with an Honorary Doctor of Letters (honoris causa), and will present the honorary doctorate on August 9 at its Melbourne campus in Bundoora.

2. Which Indian surgeon has been conferred the Honorary Fellowship of The Royal College of Surgeons (FRCS) of Thailand?

- A) Ramakanta Panda B) Deep Goel
C) P Raghu Ram D) Pradeep Chowbey

- ✓ Well-known breast surgeon and Padma Shri awardee, Dr. P Raghu Ram has been conferred the Honorary Fellowship of The Royal College of Surgeons (FRCS) of Thailand in recognition of his bold vision coupled with an intense body of work that has paved the way for improving breast healthcare in India.
- ✓ It is the highest recognition bestowed by the institute. He received the honour at the 44th Annual Scientific Congress of the Royal College in Pattaya.
- ✓ With this, Dr. Ram achieved the rare distinction of having been conferred FRCS from five Surgical Royal Colleges (London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Ireland and Thailand) as well as FACS from the American College of Surgeons. He is also the president-elect of the Association of Surgeons of India.

3. Which of the following NBFCs has become the first NBFC to get \$100 million loan from AIIB for Green Energy Funding?

- A) L&T Finance Holdings B) HDB Financial Services
C) Muthoot D) Tata Capital

- ✓ The L&T Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (LTIF) has become the first Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) to get \$100 million loan from Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) for on-lending to wind and solar power infrastructure projects in India.
- ✓ LTIF is a subsidiary of L&T Finance Holdings Ltd and a leading non-bank financier of renewable energy in India. India is committed to reducing its carbon intensity by 30-35% of the 2005 levels by 2030 under the Paris agreement.

4. Who won the women's title at the 2019 Wimbledon tennis tournament?

- A) Angelique Kerber B) Naomi Osaka
C) Serena Williams D) Simona Halep

- ✓ In Tennis, Simona Halep defeated Serena Williams in the final by 6-2, 6-2 to win the Ladies' Singles tennis title at the 2019 Wimbledon Championships. Halep became the first Romanian female player to reach and win the Wimbledon final.
- ✓ At 37 years 291 days, Williams is the oldest Grand Slam women's singles finalist to compete since the start of the Open Era in 1968. This was the first Wimbledon where a final set tie break rule was introduced.
- ✓ Upon reaching 12-12 in the third set, a classic tie break would be played. No women's singles match required the use of the final set tie break.

5. Which state has become the first Indian state to get fund through World Bank's climate resilience program?

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

- ✓ Under climate resilience program, the World Bank has recently approved \$250 million aid to Kerala for its

Resilient Kerala Programme (RKP) to brace against natural disasters.

- ✓ Hence, Kerala has become the first Indian state to get this fund to enhance the state's resilience against the impacts of natural disasters and climate change.
- ✓ The Resilient Kerala Program (RKP) will focus on strengthening the state's institutional and financial capacity to protect the assets and livelihoods of poor and vulnerable groups through an inclusive and participatory approach. The new program is part of the Government of India support to Kerala's 'Rebuild Kerala Development Programme' aimed at building a green and resilient Kerala.

6. Which former SC Judge of India has been appointed as an International Judge of the Singapore International Commercial Court (SICC)?

- A) Arjan Kumar Sikr B) Adarsh Kumar Goel
C) Sanjay Kishan Kaul D) Surinder Singh Nijjar

- ✓ Justice Arjan Kumar Sikr, an eminent jurist and a former judge of the Supreme Court of India (SCI), has been appointed as an International Judge of the Singapore International Commercial Court (SICC).
- ✓ He will assume charge as an international judge with effect from August 1 & his term will expire on January 4, 2021. The SICC is a division of the Singapore High Court and part of the Supreme Court of Singapore.
- ✓ It is designed to deal with transnational commercial disputes. It currently has 16 international judges as part of its panel. Justice AK Sikri was recently appointed as the Chairperson of the News Broadcasting Standards Authority by the News Broadcasters Association.

7. The Kasarkod beach is located in which state?

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

- ✓ The Union Environment Ministry has selected 12 beaches in India to vie for a 'Blue Flag' certification. These beaches are at Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu), Shivrajpur (Gujarat), Bhogave (Maharashtra), Ghoghla (Diu), Miramar (Goa), Kasarkod and Padubidri

(Karnataka), Kappad (Kerala), Eden (Puducherry), Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh), Golden (Odisha), and Radhanagar (Andaman & Nicobar Islands).

- ✓ The Blue Flag certification is an international recognition conferred on beaches that meet certain criteria of cleanliness and environmental propriety.
- ✓ The Blue Flag Programme for beaches and marinas is run by a Denmark-based organization - Federation of Environment Education (FEE). There are nearly 33 criteria that must be met to qualify for a Blue Flag certification.

8. The researchers at which Indian institute have developed technology to pack microbial strains in tiny capsules?

- A) Indian Institute of Water Management, Bhubaneswar
B) Indian Institute of Seed Research, Mau
C) Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasargod
D) Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR), Kozhikode

- ✓ The researchers at the Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR) in Kozhikode have developed a technology to pack microbial strains beneficial to farmers in tiny capsules.
- ✓ It will eliminate the need for lugging around sacks of bio-fertilisers as farmers do currently. The bio-capsules made with the technology weigh just one gram. But the microbial population they contain is equivalent to what is present in a 1 kg pack of powder-based biofertiliser or a 1 litre bottle.
- ✓ The beauty of the technology is that it can be used for packing any kind of farm-friendly microbes, including nitrogen-fixing bacteria, solubilise phosphates, micronutrients and fungi that help control pathogens.
- ✓ The achievement by the IISR scientists led by Dinesh Raghavan is remarkable because no such technology is commercially available world over. The IISR is a subsidiary of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, under the Ministry of Agriculture.

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

- A) Skills Development to Improve Youth Employment
- B) Skills for All
- C) World Skills for peace and prosperity

D) Learning to learn for life and work

- ✓ The World Youth Skills Day (WYSD) is observed every year on 15th of July to generate awareness and discussion about skill development for the youths to have a better livelihood. The 2019 theme is "Learning to learn for life and work".
- ✓ This year, 'TikTok' and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) have collaborated to support Skill Development in India and to celebrate World Youth Skills Day (WYSD) 2019.
- ✓ The partnership aims to leverage TikTok's 200 million user community to build awareness around NSDC's mission to educate India's youth. The aim of NSDC is to promote skill development by catalysing creation of large, quality and for-profit vocational institutions.

10. Which Indian organisation has published the first comprehensive census of orchids of India "Orchids of India: A Pictorial Guide"?

- A) Tata Institute of Fundamental Research
- B) National Centre for Cell Science
- C) Zoological Survey of India

D) Botanical Survey of India

- ✓ The first comprehensive census of orchids of India has been published by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) under the title "Orchids of India: A Pictorial Guide". As per the census, the 1256 species or taxa of orchids belong to 155 genera and 388 species are endemic to India.
- ✓ The highest number of orchid species is recorded from Arunachal Pradesh with 612 species, followed by Sikkim (560 species) and West Bengal (Darjeeling Himalayas) with 479 species.

- ✓ There are 388 species of orchids, which are endemic to India of which about one-third (128) endemic species are found in Western Ghats. The publication point out that Kerala has 111 of these endemic species while Tamil Nadu has 92 of them.
- ✓ The publication, which has photographs of 60% of all species, is the first authentic inventory and will be useful for researchers, growers, nature lovers and people with different backgrounds.
- ✓ Another interesting factor is that the entire orchid family is listed under appendix II of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) and hence any trade of wild orchid is banned globally.

1. Who has been selected for Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships in the field of performing arts?

- A) Tarun Bhattacharya **B) Zakir Hussain**
C) Rajiv Naik D) Malini Awasthi

- ✓ The Sangeet Natak Akademi has named four eminent personalities in the field of performing arts - tabla virtuoso Zakir Hussain, dancer Sonal Mansingh, dancer and choreographer Jatin Goswami and Bharatnatyam exponent K. Kalyanasundaram Pillai - for the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellow or Akademi Ratna awards.
- ✓ The Fellowship of the Akademi is the most prestigious and a rare honour, which is restricted to 40 numbers at any given time. The General Council meeting of the Sangeet Natak Akademi also selected 44 artistes from the field of music, dance, theatre, traditional / folk / tribal music / dance/ theatre, puppetry and overall contribution / scholarship in the performing arts for the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar) for the year 2018.
- ✓ The artistes include, Mani Prasad in Hindustani Vocal, Tarun Bhattacharya for Hindustani Instrumental - Santoor, Radha Sridhar for Bharatanatyam, Akham Lakshmi Devi for Manipuri, Rajiv Naik for Playwriting and Malini Awasthi in Folk Music. The 44 artistes include three joint awards.

2. Ursula von der Leyen, who has been elected as the European Commission's first female president, is from which country?

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

- ✓ German Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen has been elected as the first female president of European Commission (EC) following a secret ballot among MEPs.
- ✓ She will succeed Jean-Claude Juncker on 1st November 2019. The Commission drafts EU laws, enforces EU rules and has the power to impose fines on member states if necessary.

3. Swarup Dutta, who passed away recently, was the veteran actor of which regional cinema?

- A) Odia B) Kannadam
C) Bengali D) Telugu

- ✓ Swarup Dutta (78), the veteran Bengali actor, has passed away on July 17. Born on 22nd June 1941, Dutta was considered to be one of the distinguished actors of the Bengali silver screen during the late 60s and early 70s.
- ✓ He had got his first break in Tapan Sinha's 'Apanjan' (1968). The film was set against the political turmoil in West Bengal in the 1960s.

4. The researchers at which University have developed a lowcost filter to remove arsenic from water?

- A) Delhi University B) IIT Bombay
C) Tezpur University D) IISC Bangalore

- ✓ Researchers at Assam's Tezpur University have developed a simple and cost effective filtration system 'Arsiron Nilogon' that may help reduce the health burden caused by arsenic and iron contaminated groundwater.
- ✓ The system filters out 99.9% of the arsenic contamination from the groundwater to make it suitable for drinking.
- ✓ The chemicals used in the filtration process are cooking soda for pH conditioning, potassium permanganate for supplying oxygen and ferric chloride for providing solid iron oxide adsorbents of arsenic.
- ✓ The method can remove arsenic even to below 2 ppb (parts per billion) level while the World Health Organization (WHO) has set 10 ppb as the standard level.
- ✓ According to the WHO, arsenic is a natural component of the Earth's crust and is widely distributed throughout the environment -- in air, water and land. However, it is highly toxic in its inorganic form.
- ✓ The long term exposure to inorganic arsenic, mainly by drinking contaminated water, eating food grown or even prepared with this water, can cause skin lesions

and cancer. The filtration process also removes other toxic metal ions like manganese, lead, nickel, chromium, copper, etc, very well along with arsenic and iron.

5. Which state/UT government has launched "Happiness Utsav" in its schools?

- A) Haryana
B) Rajasthan
C) Madhya Pradesh
D) Delhi

- ✓ The Delhi government has recently launched "Happiness Utsav" in its schools to celebrate completion of a year of introduction of its happiness curriculum.
- ✓ During the festival, the first 50 minutes of each day, all children studying in Delhi govt schools will take part in various activities. Activities like plays, poems, exhibitions will be part of the 15 day festival.

6. Vijayveer Sidhu is associated to which sports?

- A) Judo
B) Weightlifting
C) Shooting
D) Wrestling

- ✓ In shooting, Vijayveer Sidhu picked up his third gold medal of the ongoing ISSF Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany. With Rajkanwar Singh Sandhu and Adarsh Singh, he clinched the men's 25m pistol event.
- ✓ For Adarsh, it was his second gold of the competition. India maintained its top spot at the medal standings after day three with 7 gold 7 Silver and 2 Bronze in a total of 16 medals won so far. China is second with 5 Gold 3 Silver and 5 bronze.

7. The International Shark Awareness Day is observed on which date?

- A) July 11
B) July 13
C) July 15
D) July 14

- ✓ The International Shark Awareness Day (ISAD) is observed every year on 14th of July to recognize the importance of sharks play in the ecosystem. The 2019 theme "The sharks in crisis: a call to action for the Mediterranean".
- ✓ According to the latest report issued by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Tunisia has become the 2nd

largest fishing country for sharks in the Mediterranean after Libya.

- ✓ The WWF report calls on fishermen and fishery managers on both sides of the Mediterranean to avoid fishing in critical areas such as nurseries and to use adapted gear to eliminate by catch.
- ✓ It also underlines the need to improve knowledge of shark populations and commercialized species in order to strengthen conservation efforts and ensure transparency and legality in the fishing sector.

8. From which city, the first-ever international commercial flight from Madhya Pradesh has launched?

- A) Indore
B) Bhopal
C) Jabalpur
D) Gwalior

- ✓ In Madhya Pradesh, Air India has recently launched the state's first international flight from Indore to Dubai from Devi Ahilyabai Holkar International Airport.
- ✓ The non-stop flight AI903 has fulfilled a long-standing desire from the travel fraternity and tourists for direct connectivity to the Gulf. From Indore, Air India is operating a 162 seater A320 Neo aircraft which will fly three times a week — Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays — non-stop to Dubai.
- ✓ Indore born Sunish Kumar Bhargava was the commander of this first-ever international flight from his home city.
- ✓ The aircraft will fly directly to Dubai on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday while the return leg from Dubai will be on Tuesday, Friday and Sunday. It will have very attractive fares starting from Rs. 18,700 – Rs. 42,000.

9. Which Indian organisation has decided to develop the Broadband Readiness Index (BRI) for Indian States and Union Territories (UT)?

- A) TRAI
B) BSNL
C) ICRIER
D) MTNL

- ✓ The Department of Telecom and the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations

(ICRIER) signed a MoU to develop a Broadband Readiness Index (BRI) for Indian States and Union Territories (UT). The first estimate will be made in 2019 and subsequently every year until 2022.

- ✓ This index will appraise the condition of the underlying digital infrastructure and related factors at State / UT levels. It will provide useful insights into strategic choices made by states for investment allocations in ICT programmes.
- ✓ The index will encourage states to cross learn and jointly participate in achieving the overall objective of digital inclusion and development in India.

10. The Markandeshwar temple is located on the bank of which river in Maharashtra?

A) Wainganga

B) Painganga

C) Wardha

D) Koyna

- ✓ The Markandeshwar temple is situated on the bank of River Wainganga in district Gadchiroli of Maharashtra. Archaeological Survey of India initiated the large scale restoration work of this temple since November 2017.
- ✓ Known as the “Khajuraho of Vidarbha”, the temples belong to the Nagara group of temples of North India. On stylistic grounds, their date ranges in between 9-12th centuries CE. The temples belong to Saiva, Vaishnava and Sakta faith.
- ✓ Most of the temples have a simple plan, with ardha mandapa, mandapa and garbhagriha forming the component of the entire set up. The most striking feature of this temple is the largescale destruction caused on the main shrine (garbhagriha) and the very first recordings made by Alexander Cunningham states that about 200 years ago the shikhara of the main shrine and mahamandapa was struck by a lightning which led to the partial collapse of the shikhara.

1. Which state government has raised financial aid for Martyrs' Kin to Rs.1 crore?

- A) Odisha B) Kerala
C) Andhra Pradesh D) Maharashtra

- ✓ The Maharashtra government has recently increased financial aid to families of jawans martyred in war or war-like situations or conflict related to national security from Rs 25 lakh to Rs 1 crore.
- ✓ Personnel wounded in conflict will get monetary compensation ranging from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 60 lakh each, depending on the severity of their injury. The rule will be applicable retrospectively from January 1, 2019.

2. Which country has become the 76th signatory country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement?

- A) Norway B) Palau
C) Sweden D) Latvia

- ✓ Palau, an archipelago of over 500 islands in Oceania, has become the 76th signatory country to join the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement. The ISA is a group of 121 solar resource rich countries with headquarters in Gurugram, India.
- ✓ The organisation was jointly launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and then French President Francois Hollande at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris in November 2015.
- ✓ It is a major global initiative for contributing to the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement through rapid and massive deployment of solar energy. Palau will host the 2020 edition of the 'Our Oceans conference', which will focus on issues such as climate change, sustainable fisheries and marine pollution.

3. Which Indian woman sprinter has won gold in the 200m race at "Tabor Athletics"?

- A) Dutee chand B) VK Vismaya
C) Hima Das D) Swapna Barman

- ✓ Star Indian sprinter Hima Das clinched gold in the 200m race in 23.25 seconds creditable timing in the Tabor Athletics Meet in Czech Republic.
- ✓ Another Indian sprinter VK Vismaya was second with a season of best 23.43 seconds. Hima has a 200m personal best of 23.10 seconds. This was Hima's 4th gold since 2nd July 2019.

4. Which Indian Government campaign has won the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold Award 2019 in the "Marketing - Primary Government Destination" category?

- A) Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
B) Find the Incredible You

C) India Shining

D) God's Own Country

- ✓ The Incredible India campaign "Find the Incredible You" has won the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold Award 2019 in the "Marketing - Primary Government Destination" category.
- ✓ The campaign was released globally by the Union Ministry of Tourism during 2018 – 19. The campaign focuses on digital and social media and the promotion of Niche Tourism products of the country.
- ✓ PATA Gold Awards are given to tourism industry organizations and individuals making an outstanding contribution towards the successful promotion of the travel industry throughout the Asia Pacific Region.

5. Who is the author of the book "Kargil: Untold stories from the War"?

- A) Rachna Bisht Rawat B) Mrunal Thakur
C) Prakash Kovelamudi D) Lakshmi Manchur

- ✓ The book titled "Kargil: Untold stories from the War" has been authored by Rachna Bisht Rawat. The book is based on author's interviews with war survivors and martyrs' families. It will take the readers to the treacherous Himalayan Mountains where some of the Indian Army's bloodiest battles were fought.

- ✓ The war, which lasted for nearly three months, initiated in the May of 1999 in an effort to displace Pakistani soldiers from the peaks they had occupied on the Indian side of the Line of Control (LoC). India won the war, but lost over 500 soldiers. The book is a tribute to their courage and to that of their families, who have faced their loss with such dignity.

6. Which Indian organisation has introduced web-based application system for contribution from Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS)?

- A) IRDAI
B) SEBI
C) RBI
D) SIDBI

- ✓ SIDBI has introduced web-based application system for contribution from Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS). The applications for contribution from various Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) will now be accepted online and the status of the same shall be accessible to applicants, thereby increasing the transparency in the system.
- ✓ The provision of submission of online application will be on the home page of SIDBI. To begin with the application process, the AIF should create an account, fill in the details and submit the application form online along with the required supporting documents. SIDBI is the implementing agency for FFS with a corpus of Rs 10,000 crore on behalf of the Government of India (GoI).

7. The 2019 World Day for International Justice (WDIJ) is observed on which date?

- A) July 11
B) July 13
C) July 15
D) July 17

- ✓ The World Day for International Justice (WDIJ) is observed every year on July 17 to promote international criminal justice and as a way of supporting the work of the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- ✓ The aim of this day is to unite everyone who wants to support justice as well as promote victims' rights. The day is also referred as the International Criminal Justice Day (ICJD) or International Justice Day (IJD).

8. Which Indian woman cricketer has been conferred the 2018 Arjuna Award?

- A) Veda Krishnamurthy B) Smriti Mandhana
C) Harmanpreet Kaur D) Jhulan Goswami

- ✓ Star Indian cricketer Smriti Mandhana and ace tennis player Rohan Bopanna have been conferred with the 2018 Arjuna Awards by Union Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Kiren Rijeeu at a ceremony held in New Delhi.
- ✓ She is currently ranked No.1 in the ICC ODI Batting rankings. Playing for India, Mandhana has already registered 1951 runs in the format at a splendid average of 42.41. On the other hand, Bopanna won the gold medal in tennis men's double category in Asian Games 2018. The total amount awarded is Rs. 350,000,000.

9. The Union Cabinet has approved Inter-Institutional Agreement between India and which country for 3D bioprinting & regenerative medicine?

- A) United States of America
B) France
C) Italy
D) Canada

- ✓ The Union Cabinet has given ex-post facto approval to the Inter – Institutional Agreement (IIA) between India and the USA in the areas of regenerative medicine and 3D bioprinting, new technologies, exchange of scientific ideas/information and technologies, and joint use of scientific infrastructure.
- ✓ The purpose of the Agreement is to contribute towards the development of research and education of both the Institutions through academic collaboration. The joint research projects, training programmes, conferences, seminars etc. under this Agreement will be open to all qualified scientists and technologists.
- ✓ Scientific research and technology development in the areas of regenerative medicine and 3D bio-printing will have potential for generation of new Intellectual Property, processes, prototypes or products.

10. The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared Ebola outbreak as global health emergency in which African country?

- A) Mozambique B) Zambia
C) DR Congo D) Angola

- ✓ The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the Ebola crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).
 - ✓ The outbreak in DR Congo has killed more than 1,600 people. The outbreak, the second largest in history, started in August 2018 and is affecting two provinces in DR Congo – North Kivu and Ituri.
 - ✓ This is the fifth such declaration in history. Previous emergencies were declared for the devastating 2014 – 16 Ebola outbreak in West Africa that killed more than 11,000 people, the emergence of Zika in the Americas, the swine flu pandemic and polio.
 - ✓ Ebola is a virus that initially causes sudden fever, intense weakness, muscle pain and a sore throat. It progresses to vomiting, diarrhoea and both internal and external bleeding.
 - ✓ People are infected when they have direct contact through broken skin, or the mouth and nose, with the blood, vomit, faeces or bodily fluids of someone with Ebola. Patients tend to die from dehydration and multiple organ failure.
-

1. Which Indian cricketer has been inducted into ICC Hall of Fame?

- A) Saurav Ganguly B) V V S Laxman
C) Javagal Srinath D) Sachin Tendulkar

- ✓ Indian batting icon Sachin Tendulkar has been inducted into the International Cricket Council (ICC)'s Hall of Fame alongside South African pace legend Allan Donald and Australian woman cricketer Cathryn Fitzpatrick.
- ✓ Tendulkar is regarded the greatest to have played the game along with Sir Donald Bradman and remains the top run-accumulator in both Tests and ODIs. He has 34,357 runs across formats and is the only batsman to have 100 internationals hundreds under his belt.
- ✓ Donald is one of the finest bowlers to have played the game and had 330 Test and 272 ODI wickets to his credit before calling it quits in 2003. Fitzpatrick is the second highest wicket taker of all time in women's cricket with 180 ODI scalps and 60 in Tests. As a coach, she guided the Australian women's team to three World Cup titles.

2. Which state / UT Cricket Association has been granted the status of a Full Member of the BCCI?

- A) Daman & Diu B) A & N Islands
C) Pondicherry D) Lakshadweep

- ✓ The Cricket Association of Pondicherry (CAP) has been granted the status of a Full Member of the BCCI by the Committee of Administrators. CAP will now become a voting member of the BCCI. It was given Associate Member status in October 2018.

3. Paramarsh scheme is associated to which union ministry?

- A) Ministry of Defense B) Ministry of Railways
C) Ministry of Finance D) Ministry of HRD

- ✓ The Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank" launched 'Paramarsh' – a University Grants Commission (UGC) scheme.
- ✓ The scheme is aimed at mentoring National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC) Accreditation Aspirant Institutions to promote Quality

Assurance in Higher Education in New Delhi. Initially, 71 universities and 391 colleges with NAAC score of 3.26 and above will mentor five colleges each.

- ✓ Under the Paramarsh scheme, the leading institutions will provide regular mentoring to help colleges achieve high quality standards. The scheme also proposes to provide financial assistance to the mentoring institutions and the option of appointing an expert, who can be paid a fellowship amount of Rs 31,000 per month.
- ✓ The scheme is expected to have a major impact in addressing a national challenge of improving the quality of Higher Education in India.

4. What name has been given to the recently launched UGC Guide to Student Induction Programme (SIP)?

- A) Praveshika B) Deeksha
C) Deeksharambh D) Dakshina

- ✓ The Union HRD Minister, Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank released UGC Guide to Student Induction Programme (SIP) – "Deeksharambh" in New Delhi on 18th July 2019.
- ✓ The guide will help new students to build bonds with fellow students and faculty members in the new environment. The programme is intended to empower the aspirant learners to face the Competitive world with confidence, open new horizons of life leading to character building based on Universal Human Values such as Truth, Righteous conduct, Love, Non-violence, Peace and assist in developing self awareness, compassion and oneness.
- ✓ To spread awareness about Deeksharambh - SIP in Higher Education Institutions and its stakeholders, UGC has decided to conduct Awareness Programmes and training programme for teachers in different regions of the country.

5. On which date, the Nelson Mandela International Day is observed?

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

- ✓ The Nelson Mandela International Day is celebrated every year on July 18 to pay tribute to South Africa's

former president for his values, legacy and contribution to society.

- ✓ The day recognizes Mandela's values and his dedication to the service of humanity in: conflict resolution; race relations; promotion and protection of human rights; reconciliation; gender equality and the rights of children and other vulnerable groups; the fight against poverty; the promotion of social justice.

6. Motihari – Amlekhgunj petroleum pipeline project, sometimes seen in news, is connected to India & which country?

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

- ✓ The Rs 325 crore Motihari – Amlekhgunj petroleum pipeline project has been successfully completed & will start commercial operation by August 2019. The 69 Km long petroleum pipeline from Motihari in Bihar to Amlekhgunj in Nepal has been constructed by India.
- ✓ It will ensure smooth, cost effective and environment friendly supply of petroleum products to Nepal. The pipeline will help in tackling the oil storage problem in Nepal and doing away with transportation of petroleum products through tankers.
- ✓ Hence, Nepal will officially start fuel trade with India via the pipeline after its virtual launch by Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi.
- ✓ The Motihari – Amlekhgunj oil pipeline project was first proposed in 1996. However, the project finally edged closer to reality during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Kathmandu in 2014.

7. The 'Medicine from the Sky' is the pilot project of which state government?

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

- ✓ **The innovative pilot project – Medicine from the Sky – will be launched by the Telangana government and the World Economic Forum (WEF)’s Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution Network.**

- ✓ The aim of the pilot project is to deliver emergency medical supplies such as blood, vaccines, medical samples and organs via drones. The project will run in partnership with the state government and HealthNet Global Limited.

8. ICC has suspended which country's Cricket Federation with immediate effect for breach of constitution?

- A) Belgium
B) Zimbabwe
C) Spain
D) Brunei

- ✓ The International Cricket Council (ICC) has suspended Zimbabwe Cricket with immediate effect over violation of global body's constitution which doesn't allow any government intervention.
- ✓ Zimbabwe Cricket was found to have been in breach of Article 2.4 (c) and (d) of the ICC Constitution for failing to provide a process for free and democratic elections and to ensure that there is no government interference in its governance and/or administration for cricket respectively.
- ✓ As a consequence of suspension, Zimbabwe Cricket will no longer receive funding from the ICC and its representative teams are now ineligible from competing in any ICC events.
- ✓ The ICC has directed that the elected Zimbabwe Cricket Board be reinstated to the office within three months and progress in this respect will be considered again at the October Board meeting.
- ✓ The Croatia Cricket Federation and the Zambia Cricket Union have both also been suspended for continuing non-compliance with ICC Membership criteria. The Moroccan Royal Cricket Federation has also been expelled from Membership of the ICC.

9. Which Indian golfer has won the FCG Callaway Junior world Golf Championship 2019?

- A) Arjun Bhati B) Shubhankar Sharma
C) Rashid Khan D) Mukesh Kumar

- ✓ The 14 year old Indian golfer Arjun Bhati has won the FCG Callaway Junior world Golf Championship 2019 by

defeating Taiwan's Jeremy Chen in Palm Desert, California.

- ✓ Out of 637 golfers from 40 counties that participated in the tournament, Arjun secured the first position with a total of 199 strokes in the 3 day final. He was followed by Chen and New Zealand's Joshua Bai at second and third positions with 202 and 207 strokes respectively.

10. Which state / UT police has launched the new e – challan system for the use of Traffic Police?

- A) Delhi
B) Pondicherry
C) Himchal Pradesh
D) Haryana

- ✓ Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik has recently launched the new e-challan system and the e-payment gateway for the use of Delhi Traffic Police.
- ✓ The E-challan devices are enabled with active GPS where the challaning officer and the violator, both can be logged and tracked to a particular geo-location. This is an important tool for evidence to establish the credibility of the prosecution.
- ✓ The payment gateway will help the citizens with the flexibility to login securely at their convenience and settle the pending violation notices with proof of payment. It is an important step towards cashless economy. It also ensures that the citizen interface with police improves and becomes more transparent.

1. The 10th Jagran Film Festival (JFF – 2019) has started in which city?

A) New Delhi

B) Mumbai

C) Kolkata

D) Kochi

- ✓ On 18th July 2019, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar inaugurated the 10th Jagran Film festival at Siri Fort Auditorium in New Delhi. The JFF is an initiative by the Jagran Prakashan Group towards creating a culture of cinema appreciation and an honest and sincere attempt create a platform that connects great content with audiences across the country. Last year, with over 18 towns, 400 screenings, 18 cinema appreciation workshop.

2. The Andhra Bank has partnered with which company to launch AI chatbot “ABHi”?

A) Microsoft

B) Wipro

C) Infosys

D) Floatbot

- ✓ The Andhra Bank has partnered with Floatbot to offer an Artificial Intelligence-powered virtual assistant for online banking users. The AI chatbot named “ABHi” - made by Floatbot - is integrated with Core Banking Servers of Andhra Bank and will automate customer support for 5 crore Andhra Bank account holders.
- ✓ This AI chatbot solution can resolve customer queries and provide banking services in English, Hindi and Hinglish. With ABHi, customers will be able to get the information instantaneously 24x7, anytime they want.
- ✓ Customers can connect and know details from ABHi through website www.andhrabank.in over Mobile / Desktop browser, Facebook Messenger and using Google Assistant. Customer can ask details on digital banking, loans, banking services, government schemes, insurance, senior citizen, RuPay Offers, Aadhaar services, payment mode, deposit / EMI Calculator, lodge a customer complaint, know nearest Branch / ATM on Google map, recharge prepaid mobile etc., on chat anytime and on move.

3. Which former Indian athlete has been nominated for IAAF Veteran Pin?

A) Milkha Singh

B) PT Usha

C) Anju Bobby George

D) Manju Bala Swami

- ✓ India's track and field legend PT Usha has been nominated for the International Association of Athletics Federation's (IAAF) 'Veteran Pin' for her outstanding service to the sport. She is often called the “Queen of track and field”.
- ✓ The IAAF CEO Jon Ridgeon has also extended an invitation to PT Usha to attend the award ceremony during the opening of the 52nd IAAF Congress in Qatar in September 2019.
- ✓ She won five gold medals -- 100 metres (m), 200m, 400m, 400 m hurdles and the 4x400 m relay -- besides a bronze in the Asian Games which were held at Jakarta in 1985.
- ✓ Usha's most memorable performance came in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics where she became the first Indian to reach the finals of the 400m hurdles, but lost the bronze by one-hundredth of a second.

4. Why did India industrialise gradually in the time of Britishers?

A) Capitalists helped to set up new industries

B) Many technicians came to India to setup new industries

C) Britishers seized and handicapped Indian cottage industries

D) People were fond of new machine made goods

- ✓ India was called ‘the industrial workshop of the world’ during the 17th & 18th centuries. Demand for Indian cotton goods in England during this time was unprecedented.
- ✓ Indian cotton cloth was considered by Englishmen as the badge of ‘style and fashion’ of the time. The economic policies followed by the British led to the rapid transformation of India's economy into a colonial economy whose nature and structure were determined by the needs of the British economy.
- ✓ They always remained foreigners in the land, exploiting Indian resources and carrying away India's wealth as tribute. The first manufacturing industry was set up in India during the British rule.

- ✓ In 1854, the first cotton – textile mill was established in Bombay, immediately after the first railway line was constructed between Bombay and Thane.

5. The 5th International Police Expo 2019 was held at which city?

- A) Kanpur** **B) Udaipur**
C) New Delhi **D) Shimla**

- ✓ The 5th International Police Expo 2019 was held at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi with theme “Challenges to strengthen peace and security” from July 19 – 20. The exhibition is an interactive platform where police representatives of different nations can meet policing security equipment and technology suppliers.

- ✓ Over 25 countries showcased advanced firearms, combat or armoured vehicles and a plethora of disruptive technologies in cyber security, drones, homeland security, and safety and rescue at the International Police Expo.

- ✓ More than 100 companies from Singapore, Israel, South Korea, Taiwan, China, UK, the US, Malaysia, Germany, Australia, Poland and other nations displayed the best and advanced technologies at the expo organised by Nexgen Exhibitions. The police to people ratio at the All India level is about 117 policemen for every 100,000 people.

6. Prithu Gupta is associated to which sports?

- A) Chess
- B) Judo
- C) Hockey
- D) Football

- ✓ Prithu Gupta (15) from Delhi has become the India's 64th Grandmaster as he crossed the 2500 mark. He beat IM Lev Yankelevich in the 5th round of the Portuguese League 2019 to cross the Elo threshold. Gupta has joined an elite list, 31 years after Viswanathan Anand became India's first Grandmaster.

7. The Indian women team has defeated which team to won Gold at the 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship 2019?

- A) Australia South Africa
C) England D) Singapore

- ✓ In 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship 2019 held in Cuttack on 18th July, India made a record by winning gold in both men's and women's category at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

- ✓ The Indian women team won the gold for the first time in the history in the commonwealth games. The women's team defeated Singapore 3 – 0 to dethrone the previous champions whereas men's team outclassed England 3 – 2.

- ✓ As a result of this win, the men's team has extended their reign for the 2nd successive time. The Indian men had won their 1st crown in Kuala Lumpur in 2004.

8. The 2019 Durand Cup is slated to be held in which state?

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

- ✓ The 2019 Durand Cup will be the 129th edition of the Durand Cup, which will be held at Kolkata in West Bengal from August 2 – 23. This will be for the first time that the tournament will be played outside New Delhi, its traditional venue.

- ✓ The matches will be played across three locations in West Bengal – Kolkata, Siliguri and Kalyani in 5 different stadiums namely East Bengal Ground, Mohun Bagan Ground, Kalyani Stadium, Siliguri Stadium and Salt Lake Stadium from 2nd August 2019.

- ✓ **Army Green is the defending champion, who won its first title beating NEROCA FC on penalties in the last edition in 2016. The Durand Cup is the Asia's oldest football tournament and 3rd oldest football tournament in the world.**

9. The scientists of which country have developed a concept named Ramanujan Machine?

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

- ✓ The scientists from Technion — Israel Institute of Technology (IIT) have developed a concept & have named Ramanujan Machine, after the Indian mathematician.

- ✓ It is not really a machine but an algorithm that automatically generates conjectures for fundamental constants. The Conjectures are mathematical statements which are proposed as true statements.
- ✓ In other words, they are mathematical statements that are, as yet, unproven. Typically, people provide the input and the algorithm (hopefully) finds the solution. The Ramanujan Machine reverses the process. So, if a constant such as π is fed into the machine, it will generate a series whose value would lead towards π .
- ✓ The researchers hope that their creation will inspire younger mathematicians. If a user develops a new proof or algorithm, it will be named after him. The algorithm reflects the way Srinivasa Ramanujan worked during his brief life (1887 – 1920).
- ✓ Throughout his life, Ramanujan came up with novel equations and identities — including equations leading to the value of π .

10. Which section of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 empowers the states to send a list of wild animals to the Centre requesting it to declare them vermin for selective slaughter?

A) Section 61

B) Section 63

C) Section 62

D) Section 64

- ✓ The Union environment ministry has recently declared Rhesus Macaque monkeys as vermin in Himachal Pradesh for a period of one year & allow the state forest department to cull them for preventing crop depredation, conflict with humans and loss of property.
- ✓ Though Rhesus Macaque monkeys are protected species under Schedule II of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, the law allows for it to be hunted by declaring it 'vermin' for a specific period if it poses a danger to human life or property.
- ✓ The section 62 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act of 1972 empowers the states to send a list of wild animals to the Centre requesting it to declare them vermin for selective slaughter.

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 21st 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 1st 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 1st 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 12th 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 11th 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 5th 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 4th 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 23rd 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 2nd 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 93rd 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 21st 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 1st time that all the 3 positions in CTTF are held by Indians.

9. Who won the women's singles titles at the 21st 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 21st 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 159th 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 24th 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 24th 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 24th 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 31st 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) 52nd ☒ B) 45th C) 51st D) 48th

- ✓ India has improved its rank by five places to stand at 52nd 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 6th 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 23rd 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 8th 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 2nd 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 3rd 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 1st 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 9th 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 1st 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 5th 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 3rd 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 3rd 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 3rd 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 1st edition was held in New Delhi, while Pune hosted the 2nd 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 28th 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 23rd 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 23rd 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 5th International Dharma–Dhamma conference was held in which city?

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

- ✓ The 5th 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 7th Economic Census has started from which state?

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

- ✓ On 30th July 2019, the Government of India (GoI) has kick off the 7th 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 22nd 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 22nd National Conference on e-Governance 2019 will be held with the theme "Digital India: Success to Excellence" on 8-9th 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 1st 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 22nd 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.
-

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 7th of his career.
- ✓ 4 time former champion Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel claimed the 2nd. Russian Daniil Kvyat achieved the 3rd spot for Toro Rosso followed by Canadian Lance Stroll in 4th 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 4th 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 29th 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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