



AUGUST

2019



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AUG 2019



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1. The 52nd ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM-52) has taken place in which city?

- A) Jakarta B) Kuala Lumpur
C) Nay Pyi Taw D) Bangkok ☒

- ✓ The 52nd ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM-52) has recently taken place in Bangkok, Thailand from July 29 to Aug 3. The annual meeting opened with a call from the host Thailand for deeper integration to expand trade and bolster prosperity in the region amid rising global challenges.
- ✓ The meeting takes place in the shadow of rising security tension on the Korean Peninsula, China's aggressive territorial claims in the South China Sea and the US-China trade war.

2. Which former Indian Cricketer has been honoured with Bharat Gaurav Award?

- A) Sunil Gavaskar B) Kapil Dev ☒
C) Ajit Wadekar D) Anil Kumble

- ✓ On August 1, East Bengal club has officially started the centenary celebrations on its foundation day with a glittering ceremony at the Netaji Indoor Stadium.
- ✓ On this occasion, the iconic football club awarded its highest honour – Bharat Gaurav – to India's first cricket World Cup-winning captain Kapil Dev.

3. Who has become the first cricketer to reach 1000 runs, 100 wickets in T20Is?

- A) Jasprit Bumrah B) Shakib al Hasan
C) Shahid Afridi D) Ellyse Perry ☒

- ✓ Australian all-rounder Ellyse Perry has become the first cricketer of either gender to reach the rare milestone of scoring 1000 runs and taking 100 wickets in T20 international cricket.
- ✓ She achieved the feat run in the multi-format 2019 Ashes series where Australia beat England by 7 wickets in Hove. Former Pakistani all-rounder Shahid Afridi (1416 runs and 98 wickets) currently stands closest to achieving the feat, while Bangladesh's Shakib al Hasan,

with 1471 runs and 88 wickets, stands next in line to join Perry.

4. Which city has been named world's best student city in the QS Best Student Cities Ranking?

- A) Paris B) Tokyo
C) Melbourne D) London ☒

- ✓ The 'QS Best Student Cities Ranking' has been compiled by global education consultancy QS Quacquarelli Symonds. London has been named as the world's best city for students for the second consecutive year, followed by Tokyo and Melbourne.
- ✓ According to the rankings, India's best student city is Bengaluru (81st), followed by Mumbai (85th), Delhi at 113 and Chennai at 115, out of a total of 120 cities in the list.
- ✓ The ranking highlighted each city's performance across 6 categories – the number of top-ranked universities; the proportion of a city's population made up of students; quality of life on offer; job opportunities available after graduation; affordability; and the feedback of the students themselves.

5. What is the theme of the 2019 edition of World Day against Trafficking in Persons?

- A) Human Trafficking: call your government to action
B) Act to protect and assist trafficked persons
C) Unite to eradicate human trafficking
D) Protect rights of human trafficking victims

- ✓ The World Day against Trafficking in Persons is observed every year on July 30 to raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights.
- ✓ Hence, the 2019 theme "Human Trafficking: call your government to action" is focusing on highlighting the importance of Government action in the interest of victims of trafficking.

6. Who won the IBC 2019 International Honour for Excellence?

- A) Christopher Nolan B) Quentin Tarantino
C) Andy Serkis ☒ D) David Fincher

- ✓ Actor-filmmaker Andy Serkis has won the IBC 2019 International Honour for Excellence and will be given the honour at the International Broadcasting Convention (IBC) awards ceremony on September 15 in Amsterdam.

7. The Innovation for Clean Air (IfCA) has been launched by India & which country in Bengaluru?

- A) UK ☒ B) France
C) Belgium D) South Africa

- ✓ India and the United Kingdom (UK) have launched a two-year joint initiative – Innovating for Clean Air (IfCA) in Bengaluru. The aim of the initiative is to provide a unique measurement system for air quality by integrating satellite and sensor data and extending support to India's transition to electric vehicles.
- ✓ The UK-India joint initiative is expected to provide stakeholders of the two countries opportunities to test interventions related to air quality and Electric Vehicle (EV) integration.
- ✓ The programme is being led by Innovate UK, a wing of the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), and is funded by the Newton Fund along with various partners from Karnataka and India.
- ✓ The key partners for the programme are the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Enzen, Project Lithium, Confederation of Indian Industry, C40 Cities and Clean Air Platform.

8. Which union ministry has launched the Atal Community Innovation Centre (ACIC) in New Delhi?

- A) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas ☒
B) Ministry of Home Affairs
C) Ministry of Finance

D) Ministry of Tribal Affairs

- ✓ Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel, Dharmendra Pradhan has recently launched Atal Community Innovation Centre (ACIC) in New Delhi to encourage the spirit of innovation at the community level.
- ✓ The aim of the initiative is to encourage the spirit of innovation through solution-driven design thinking to serve society. The ACIC is a new initiative of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) to support community innovation drive in the country.
- ✓ It will provide a platform in many of the rural, tribal areas and Tier-II and -III cities and unserved regions to have access to latest technologies for innovation and to ideate and create prototypes for innovation.

9. The National Security Guard (NSG) works under which union ministry?

- A) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
B) Ministry of Home Affairs ☒
C) Ministry of Law and Justice
D) Ministry of Defence

- ✓ S S Deswal, a 1984 batch IPS officer of Haryana cadre, has been given the additional charge of the counter-terror force National Security Guard (NSG).
- ✓ He succeeded Sudeep Lakhtaki and will hold the post in an additional capacity till a successor or regular DG is appointed. Deswal, the chief of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) force, is Lakhtakia's batchmate but his cadre is Haryana.
- ✓ The NSG is a counter terrorism unit under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). It is also known as the 'black cats' & was raised in 1984 for combating terrorist activities with a view to protect states against internal disturbances. The NSG DG post is occupied by an IPS officer.

10. Which technical giant has partnered with Apollo Hospitals to fight cardiovascular diseases?

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

- ✓ Microsoft India has partnered with Apollo Hospitals to set up a National Clinical Coordination Committee (NCCC), which will guide the two entities on all cardiology and cardiovascular related Artificial Intelligence (AI) projects.
 - ✓ It will also provide clinical insights on developing clinical algorithms and treatment guidelines based on the inferences of national, multi-centre prospective study. The committee will work for the AI-powered Cardiovascular Disease Risk Score API.
 - ✓ It will have members drawn from Apollo Hospitals, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi; and King George's Medical University, Lucknow. Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) are the biggest cause of mortality in India with nearly 25% of mortalities – amongst the age group of 25 to 69 years.
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1. Which Indian personality has been honoured with the prestigious 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award?

- A) K Sivan B) Anna Hazare
C) Ravish Kumar ☒ D) Mary Kom

- ✓ NDTV India's senior executive editor, Ravish Kumar has been honoured with the prestigious 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award for his 'ethical journalism'. Kumar has won the honour for his news show, Prime Time, which deals with real-life & under-reported problems of ordinary people.
- ✓ He is among five individuals who were declared winners of the award. The four other winners of the 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award are Ko Swe Win from Myanmar, Angkhana Neelapaijit from Thailand, Raymundo Pujante Cayabyab from Philippines and Kim Jong-Ki from South Korea.
- ✓ The Ramon Magsaysay Award is the highest honour given to Asian individuals and organisations and often referred to as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize.

2. The Union Government has set up KABIL for what purpose?

- A) To support women entrepreneurship
B) To provide free education
C) To ensure supply of critical Minerals ☒
D) To promote digitization

- ✓ The joint venture company namely Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL) has been set up with the participation of three Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) to ensure a consistent supply of critical and strategic minerals to Indian domestic market.
- ✓ These CPSEs are National Aluminium Company Ltd. (NALCO), Hindustan Copper Ltd. (HCL) and Mineral Exploration Company Ltd. (MECL). The newly setup company will ensure supply of Lithium and Cobalt which is available in less quantity in the country.
- ✓ It will help in building partnerships with other mineral rich countries like Australia and those in Africa and

South America. The equity participation between NALCO, HCL and MECL is in the ratio of 40:30:30.

3. On pilot basis, the One Nation-one Ration Card scheme has been implemented in which states?

- A) Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat
B) Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat ☒
C) Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha
D) Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Telangana

- ✓ In a major boost to national food security, the Government of India (GoI) has launched the One Nation-One Ration Card scheme on a pilot basis in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat from 1st August 2019.
- ✓ Families who have food security cards can buy subsidized rice and wheat from any ration shop in these states. Their ration cards should be linked with Aadhar Number to avail this service.
- ✓ The white Ration Card holders in Telangana have been getting the portability facility, enabling them to buy their subsidized rice and other food grains from any Fair Price Shop in the state.
- ✓ The Centre is intended to extend the programme to all states by August 2020 so that the portability of the food security card implemented.

4. Which state government has launched 'Save Green, Stay Clean' campaign?

- A) West Bengal ☒ B) Punjab
C) Himachal Pradesh D) Haryana

- ✓ In Kolkata, the West Bengal Government has launched an awareness campaign - Save Green, Stay Clean - for preserving the greenery and keeping the environment clean. The State Government will distribute more than 1 lakhs saplings throughout the state for spreading of greenery.

5. Which state / UT has announced free electricity for people using up to 200 units under a domestic connection?

- A) Andhra Pradesh B) Maharashtra
C) Madhya Pradesh D) Delhi ☒

- ✓ Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has recently announced free electricity for people consuming up to 200 units under a domestic connection.
- ✓ The decision, which came into effect from August 1, has been taken barely 6 months before Delhi Assembly elections due in February 2020.
- ✓ The people who consume up to 200 units will not have to pay electricity bills. Those consuming 201-400 units of electricity will get about 50% subsidy.

6. Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar is associated to which sports?

- A) Shooting ☒ B) Boxing
C) Wrestling D) Badminton

- ✓ In Shooting, Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar from Madhya Pradesh clinched a yellow metal in Men's Rifle 3 Positions (3P) at 12th Sardar Sajjan Singh Sethi Memorial Masters competition in New Delhi. In the finals, Aishwary posted a comfortable victory with a score of 459.9 and a classy 10.7 in the end.
- ✓ Meanwhile, multiple International Shooting Sport Federation medallist and India's most accomplished 3P shooter Sanjeev Rajput, had to be satisfied with a silver, finishing with a score of 455.5, a clear 4.4 behind Aishwary. India international Parul Kumar settled for the bronze.

7. Who is the author of the book "Tools and Weapons: The Promise and The Peril of the Digital Age"?

- A) Sundar Pichai B) Brad Smith ☒
C) Satya Nadella D) Jeff Bezos

- ✓ The book "Tools and Weapons: The Promise and The Peril of the Digital Age" has been co-authored by Microsoft

President Brad Smith & Carol Ann Browne, and will release on September 11.

- ✓ The book will provide a behind-the-scene look at the multinational technology company and tell some of the biggest stories to hit the tech industry in the past decade. These include privacy, cybercrime and cyber war and social media.

8. The Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM) is located in which city?

- A) Jaipur B) Bhopal ☒
C) Dehradun D) Delhi

- ✓ The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has released a study titled "Economic Valuation of Tiger Reserves in India: A Value+ Approach". The study is authored by the Centre for Ecological Services Management at the Indian Institute of Forest Management (Bhopal).
- ✓ It estimates the economic valuation of Bandipur Tiger Reserve and 9 other tiger reserves in the country. The purpose behind the report is to enhance tiger conservation by highlighting the holistic economic benefits of protected areas.
- ✓ The researchers used an array of methods to determine the economic, scientific, educational, cultural and recreational services of tiger parks.
- ✓ The reserves surveyed are Melghat Tiger Reserve (Maharashtra), Nagarjunasagar Srisailem (Andhra Pradesh), Anamalai (Tamil Nadu), Bandipur (Karnataka), Dudhwa (Uttar Pradesh), Pakke (Arunachal Pradesh), Palamau (Jharkhand), Panna (Madhya Pradesh), Similipal (Odisha), and Valmiki (Bihar).
- ✓ Founded in 1982, the IIFM is a premier national level institute engaged in education, research, training and consultancy in the area of Forest, Environment and Natural Resources Management and allied sectors.

9. What is the theme of the 2019 edition of World Breastfeeding Week?

- A) Breastfeeding and Work: Let's Make It Work!
- B) Sustaining Breastfeeding Together
- C) Breastfeeding: Foundation of Life
- D) Empower Parents, Enable Breastfeeding ☒

- ✓ The World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) is an annual celebration which is being held every year from 1 to 7 August in more than 120 countries.
- ✓ The purpose of WBW is to create awareness among the parents about breastfeeding and to encourage parents to adopt breastfeeding. It provides advocacy material about the importance of breastfeeding.
- ✓ The 2019 theme is "Empower Parents, Enable Breastfeeding". The focus this year is on protection, promotion, and support of breastfeeding.

10. Which union ministry is conducting India's first national Time Release Study (TRS)?

- A) Ministry of Home Affairs
- B) Ministry of Finance ☒
- C) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- D) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

- ✓ The Department of Revenue under the Ministry of Finance is conducting India's first national Time Release Study (TRS) between 1st – 7th August to enable faster movement of cargo across borders to benefit traders.
- ✓ The exercise will be institutionalized on an annual basis, during the same period every year hereafter. The TRS is an internationally recognized tool advocated by World Customs Organization (WCO) to measure the efficiency and effectiveness of international trade flows.
- ✓ This initiative will be conducted at the same time across 15 ports including sea, air, land and dry ports. The national TRS will establish baseline performance measurement and have standardized operations and procedures across all ports.

- ✓ Based on the results of the TRS, government agencies associated with cross border trade will be able to diagnose existing and potential bottlenecks which act as barriers to the free flow of trade, and take remedial actions for reducing the cargo release time. The initiative is on ground lead by the Central Board of Indirect Tax and Customs.

1. Which Indian personality has been honoured with the highest award of Republic of Guinea "National order of Merit"?

- A) Rajnath Singh B) Ram Nath Kovind ☒
C) Narendra Modi D) Subrahmanyam Jaishankar

- ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind has been awarded the National order of Merit by the President of Guinea for his exceptional contribution to the advancement of overall relations and development of mutual cooperation between India and Guinea and for promoting friendship and partnership between the people of both the countries.
- ✓ This is the highest award of Republic of Guinea. Beside this, 3 MoUs were signed between the two countries viz. Cooperation in the Field of Traditional System of Medicine, e-Vidhyabharati – e-Aarogya Bharati Network Project and Renewal Energy.
- ✓ President Kovind also announced a new Line of Credit of US\$ 170 million for Water Supply Project of Conakry city. Both countries also agreed on the need for reform of the UN Security Council to make it reflective of contemporary realities.

2. Which country has officially withdrawn from Intermediate – Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF)?

- A) France B) Germany
C) United States of America ☒ D) UK

- ✓ The United States has officially withdrawn from Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty with Russia. The INF Treaty is a Cold War-era missile treaty that was signed by then US President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in 1987.
- ✓ The treaty banned both countries from deploying land-launched cruise missiles in the 500 – 5500 Km range. It was a key to ending the arms race between the (then) two super powers and helped protect the U.S.'s NATO allies in Europe from Soviet missile attacks.
- ✓ The reasons for withdrawal are as follows: the Trump and Obama administrations have repeatedly alleged that Russia was violating the treaty by fielding a

ground-based cruise missile – The Novator 9M729 ("SSC – 8" in NATO terminology) that could strike Europe at a short notice, an allegation that Russia has repeatedly denied.

3. Which state government has launched Vhali Dikri Yojna for the welfare of girl child?

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

- ✓ On August 3, Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani launched the 'Vhali Dikri Yojna' in Rajkot for the welfare of girl child.
- ✓ It is a statewide cash incentive scheme for every girl child born in Gujarat, with a view to raising the female birthrate at par with male to achieve gender equality.
- ✓ According to scheme, the State Government will pay Rs. 4000 to every girl child at the time of admission to Standard 4th, Rs. 6000 at the time of taking admission to Standard IX, Rs. 1 lakh at the time of taking admission for higher education at the age of 18 and another Rs. 1 lakh at the time of marriage. Approx, Rs.133 crore has been allocated for this scheme.

4. Which bank has become the first Indian bank to link up with China's National Advance Payment System (CNAPS)?

- A) BoB B) SBI ☒
C) ICICI D) PNB

- ✓ The State Bank of India's (SBI) Shanghai branch has become the first Indian bank to link up with China's National Advance Payment System (CNAPS).
- ✓ After being a member of the CNAPS, SBI Shanghai can also offer real time transfer of local funds within China by routing them through the PBOC. It eliminates the need of tie up and maintenance of accounts with multiple Banks for fund transfer.
- ✓ The CNAPS provides realtime settlement services for all payments cleared in mainland China, as well as in all clearing banks in offshore yuan centers, such as Hong Kong.

- ✓ The CNAPS system is complemented by its international counterpart, the CIPS (China International Payments System or Cross-Border Inter-Bank Payment System), launched in 2015 with the aim of boosting international use of the Chinese currency, yuan. The CNAP was launched in 2008 by People's Bank of China (PBOC).
5. Devadas Kanakala, who passed away recently, was the veteran actor of which regional cinema?
- A) Tamil B) Telugu ☒
C) Malayalam D) Kannada
- ✓ Devadas Kanakala (75), the veteran Telugu actor, has passed away in Hyderabad on August 3. He was also well-known to have trained South Indian actors – Rajinikanth, Chiranjeevi and Rajendra Prasad through his film institute.
6. Which Indian Origin personality has been crowned Miss England 2019?
- A) Swati Sharma B) Roshni Rai
C) Bhasha Mukherjee ☒ D) Sweta Singh
- ✓ A 23 year old Indian Origin doctor, Bhasha Mukherjee has been crowned Miss England after fending off competition from dozens of other models.
- ✓ She holds two different medical degrees & has an IQ of 146. Bhasha speaks five languages – English, Bengali, Hindi, German and French and has a Bachelor's degree in medicine and surgery from the University of Nottingham. As winner of Miss England, she will be entered into the Miss World contest and will also bag a holiday to Mauritius.
7. The Census 2021 will be conducted in how many scheduled languages?
- A) 16 B) 18 ☒
C) 22 D) 20
- ✓ The 16th edition of Census 2021 will be conducted in 18 languages out of the 22 scheduled languages, while Census 2011 was in 16 of the 18 scheduled languages declared at that time.
- ✓ It also will introduce a code directory to streamline the process. Importantly, the latest census, as per the existing plan, will not collect caste data.
- ✓ The option of "Other" under the gender category is now "Third Gender". It will be conducted in two phases: the houselisting phase with 34 parameters from April 2020 to September 2020 and the population enumeration phase with 28 parameters from February 9 2021 to February 28 2021.
- ✓ The decennial exercise would involve 31 lakh trained enumerators, with data collected digitally using Android based mobile phones. The Census data would be available by the year 2024 – 25 as the entire process would be conducted digitally and data crunching would be quicker.
8. As per which article of the constitution, Supreme Court has ruled that a judicial magistrate has power to direct accused to give voice samples?
- A) Article 144 B) Article 141
C) Article 142 ☒ D) Article 143
- ✓ In a landmark judgment, the Supreme Court has recently held that a judicial magistrate can order an accused to give his voice samples even against his consent in the course of a criminal investigation.
- ✓ This judgment was rendered by a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and comprising Justices Deepak Gupta and Sanjiv Khanna.
- ✓ The bench dealt with the issues, including that whether in the absence of any provision in the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPc), can a magistrate authorise the investigating agency to record the voice sample of the person accused of an offence.
- ✓ The CJI pointed out that the Supreme Court has issued this order under Article 142 of the Constitution following the interpretation of all the pertinent laws.
9. As per which committee's report, UGC has recommended 20 institutions for Institutes of Eminence?
- A) Ambika Soni committee

B) N S Vishwanathan committee

C) N Gopalaswami committee ☒

D) Viral Acharya committee

- ✓ The University Grants Commission (UGC) has recommended the grant of the Institute of Eminence (IoE) status to 20 institutions such as IITs Madras and Kharagpur, Delhi University, University of Hyderabad, Amritha Vishwa Vidyapeetham and VIT.
- ✓ The recommendations are based on the reports of the Empowered Expert Committee (EEC) under the chairmanship of N Gopalaswami. The aim of Institute of Eminence (IoE) scheme is to develop 20 world-class institutions which would put India on the global education map.
- ✓ Those selected will be given greater autonomy and freedom to decide fees, course durations and governance structures. The public institutions will also receive a government grant of Rs 1000 crore, while the private institutions will not get any funding under the scheme.

10. The researchers at which IIT has developed Hydro Thermal Carbonization (HTC) technology for solid waste management?

A) IIT Kanpur

B) IIT Kharagpur ☒

C) IIT Madras

D) IIT Delhi

- ✓ A research team at IIT Kharagpur has developed a technology which can generate energy from solid waste with high moisture content. The new technology–Hydro Thermal Carbonization (HTC) can convert municipal solid waste to biofuel, soil amendment and absorbents.
- ✓ The technology converts organic fraction of Municipal Solid Waste into Hydrochar by using a batch reactor. The moisture in the waste is used to the advantage of the process which uses water for the reaction.
- ✓ The process has increased the resource recovery yield to 50 – 65% of urban organic waste. The key to the success of the technology lies in designing a proper industrial-scale HTC reactor with improved heat integration system.

1. Kanti Bhatt, who passed away recently, was the veteran personality of which field?

- A) Journalism ☒ B) Politics
C) Sports D) Arts

✓ Kanti Bhatt (88), the veteran Gujarati journalist, author and columnist, has passed away in Mumbai. He was born on 15th July 1931 in Sachra village in erstwhile Bhavnagar state of Gujarat. He started his journalism career in the late 1960s as a financial journalist in Mumbai.

✓ He also worked as journalist, writer, columnist and editor in various Gujarati publications like Chitraklekha, Mumbai Samachar, Janshakti, Sandesh, Yuva Darshan, Jansatta, Vyapar and Abhiyan. Bhatt was also the founding editor of one of the leading Gujarati magazines 'Abhiyan'.

2. Anant Setalvad, who passed away recently, was the veteran personality of which sports?

- A) Badminton B) Hockey
C) Boxing D) Cricket ☒

✓ Anant Setalvad (84), yesteryear cricket commentator, has passed away in Mumbai on August 4. His pleasant baritone voice distinguished him from other cricket commentators from the mid 1960s through to the 1980s.

✓ He was commentator for AIR in Ranji Trophy and other BCCI tournaments and also for Test matches. He was on the AIR panel for the 1969 India–Australia Test match.

3. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy is associated to which sports?

- A) Badminton ☒ B) Hockey
C) Boxing D) Cricket

✓ Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have become the first Indian pair to win a BWF Super 500 badminton tournament.

✓ They beat World champions Li Jun Hui and Liu Yu Chen of China in the summit clash of Thailand Open 21–19, 18–21, 21–18 in Bangkok to win the men's doubles category.

4. ISRO has decided to setup Space Situational Awareness Control Centre in which city?

- A) Kochi B) Bengaluru ☒
C) Hyderabad D) Raipur

✓ ISRO Chief, K Sivan has recently laid the foundation stone for Space Situational Awareness Control Centre (SSACC) at Peenya, Bengaluru. The aim of the control center is to monitor and protect high value space assets from space debris has been laid.

✓ The control centre will boost activities forecast for Space Situational Awareness and Management (SSAM). This step will secure India's expensive and strategically important satellites and future spacecraft from space detritus such as dead satellite remains, near – earth asteroids and extreme weather situations.

✓ It would assimilate the tracking data of dead satellites from indigenous observation facilities produce important data from bare observations by inspection.

5. India's first large-scale trial for VPM1002 & Immuvac is related to which disease?

- A) AIDS B) Malaria C) TB ☒ D) Polio

✓ The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has launched India's first large – scale trial for two new TB vaccines–VPM1002 and Immuvac. VPM1002 is produced by the Serum Institute of India (Pune) & Immuvac is manufactured by Cadila Pharmaceuticals.

✓ These anti – Tuberculosis vaccines aim to prevent infection (pre-exposure) or prevent primary progression or reactivation of latent TB infection (post – exposure). According to the Global TB Report 2017 issued by the World Health Organization (WHO), India has the highest number of TB cases in the world.

6. On which date, the 2019 UN International Day of Friendship is celebrated recently?

- A) July 30 ☒ B) July 31 C) July 24 D) July 25

✓ The UN International Day of Friendship is celebrated across the globe every year on July 30 to observe the importance of friendship in promoting peace in many

cultures. The day is based on the recognition of the importance of friendship as a noble and valuable sentiment in the lives of human beings around the world. However, India celebrates Friendship Day on the first Sunday of August.

7. Which state has become the India's first state to adopt a digital fingerprint and iris scanning system?

- A) Chhattisgarh B) Maharashtra ☒
C) Rajasthan D) Odisha

- ✓ Maharashtra has become the India's first state to adopt a digital fingerprint and iris scanning system – Automated Multi-modal Biometric Identification System (AMBIS) – to aid police investigations.
- ✓ This system will soon be replicated by other state police forces across the country. An AMBIS unit consists of a computer terminal, a camera, and iris, fingerprint, and palm scanners. It also includes a portable system to dust off and capture fingerprints from crime scenes.
- ✓ This new system has replaced the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), which has been used by Indian law enforcement agencies to search finger and palm prints.

8. The Union Government has approved Rs. 4,900 crore Kosi – Mechi Interlinking project. Mechi is an important tributary of which river basin?

- A) Ganga B) Mahananda ☒
C) Brahmaputra D) Yamuna

- ✓ The Union Government has approved Rs 4,900 crore Kosi – Mechi Interlinking project for interlinking of Kosi and Mechi rivers of Bihar. This is the second major river interlinking project in the country to be approved after the Ken – Betwa project in Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ The ambitious Kosi – Mechi project is unique in many ways. It will not only prevent recurring floods in north Bihar but also provide irrigation for a whopping over 2.14 lakh hectares of cultivable land in Araria, Purnea, Kishanganj and Katihar districts, collectively called Seemanchal region.

- ✓ This approval comes after this project secured the last remaining mandatory technical-cum-administrative nod from Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Mechi is an important tributary of River Mahananda.

9. Which Bollywood actor to be felicitated with 'Excellence in Cinema' award by Victorian Government?

- A) Priyanka Chopra B) Shekhar Kapoor
C) Shahrukh Khan ☒ D) Deepika Padukone

- ✓ Shah Rukh Khan will be felicitated with 'Excellence in Cinema' honour at the awards night of Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) on August 8.
- ✓ The festival would pay tribute to the actor's continuous contribution to cinema and popular culture in India with the award. Shahrukh is the chief guest at the festival. He'll be presented the award by Linda Dessau, who is the first female Governor of the State of Victoria.
- ✓ Helmed by the Victorian government of Australia, the IFFM is back for its 10th edition in the cultural city and will celebrate "courage" as its central theme in 2019. The felicitation will take place at the iconic Palais Theatre in Melbourne, which is one of the city's heritage landmarks.

10. Naaz Joshi, who won the Miss World Diversity 2019 title, is from which country?

- A) Mauritius B) Indonesia
C) India ☒ D) Thailand

- ✓ India's transsexual woman Naaz Joshi has been crowned Miss World Diversity 2019 at Port Louis in Mauritius on August 3. She has made the country proud with a 3rd successive victory in the beauty pageant Miss World Diversity.
- ✓ Apart from the Miss World Diversity title, Naaz also bagged the Best Project, Miss Congeniality, Miss People's Choice Ambassador and Best National Costume titles. She was the 1st transgender in the world to win a coveted international crown against natural born females in 2017.

1. The census of elephants is undertaken at the national level once in how many years?

- A) 4 B) 8 C) 5 ☒ D) 10

- ✓ According to the revised state-wise wild elephant population estimate based on the 2017 census, jumbo population across the country stood at 29,964 against 29,576 recorded as the mean figure in 2012.
- ✓ The South Region accounted for 14,612 followed by North East with 10,139 elephants. Among the South Indian states, Karnataka leads the table with 6,049 elephants followed by Kerala.
- ✓ The tiger population across the country is estimated at 2,967 as per the 2018 census. The census of tigers is undertaken at the national level once every 4 years and that of elephants at every 5 years. As per the India State of Forest Report 2017, there has been an increase of 6,778 kms of forest cover at the national level as compared to the assessment of 2015.

2. The United States has designated which country as currency manipulator?

- A) Myanmar B) South Korea
C) China ☒ D) North Korea

- ✓ The United States has designated China a "currency manipulator, following the devaluation of the Yuan. The move could escalate the tense trade relations between the two nations.
- ✓ The US action came after China allowed its yuan to weaken past the key 7 per dollar level for the first time in more than a decade. This decision will engage with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to eliminate the unfair competitive advantage created by China's latest actions.
- ✓ The decision to label China as a currency manipulator for the first time since 1994 comes just 4 months after the U.S. Treasury passed on an opportunity to make such a formal designation as part of its semiannual currency report.
- ✓ The Treasury uses three criteria to apply the designation: actively intervening in their currency

markets, having large trade surpluses with the U.S., and having large overall current – account surpluses.

3. Which Indian cricketer has been chosen as the July's PCA player of the month?

- A) Cheteshwar Pujara B) Shikhar Dhawan
C) Ajinkya Rahane D) R Ashwin ☒

- ✓ India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has been chosen as the Professional Cricketers Association's (PCA) Player for the month of July 2019 for his consistent performances in the county championships.
- ✓ Ashwin signed with Nottinghamshire for six County Championship matches as practice for India's World Test Championship fixture against West Indies that gets underway later this month.

4. Which union ministry has organized the 2nd All India Annual Conference of IIS Officers?

- A) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
B) Ministry of Communications
C) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
D) Ministry of Information & Broadcasting ☒

- ✓ On 5th August 2019, the 2nd All India Annual Conference of Indian Information Service (IIS) Officers was organized at Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra in New Delhi.
- ✓ The Conference was organized with a view to attain greater integration of all Media Units under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in order to further amplify government communication.
- ✓ A Performance Review of Media Units under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting was also conducted during the day – long meeting.
- ✓ The Conference was attended by Senior IIS Officers from all across the country, along with officials of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Prasar Bharati and Indian Institute of Mass Communication.

5. Which Indian cricketer has been conferred with Karthik Bose Lifetime Achievement award?

A) Bishan Singh Bedi B) Arun Lal ☒

C) Farokh Engineer D) Syed Kirmani

✓ Former Indian opener and Bengal captain, Arun Lal has been conferred with Karthik Bose Lifetime Achievement award of the Cricket Association of Bengal's (CAB's) in Kolkata. He played 16 Test matches and 13 One Day Internationals (ODIs) for India between 1982 and 1989.

✓ He played six seasons for Delhi before becoming a regular feature for Bengal and was a major figure in Bengal's Ranji Trophy triumph in 1989.

6. The ScooNews Global Educators Fest (SGEF) is being held in which city?

A) New Delhi B) Kanpur

C) Udaipur ☒ D) Ranchi

✓ The 3rd edition of India's largest education brainstorming event "SooNews Global Educators Fest (SGEF – 2019)" is being held in Udaipur, Rajasthan on August 09 & 10. It will bring together over 500 educators to discuss the way towards establishing India as the next global education powerhouse.

✓ The theme for the fest is 'Education for Sustainability: Moving on from conformity to creativity'. The fest will provide an excellent platform for individuals and organizations contributing to the cause of education, schools as well as startups to debate on innovation with industry leaders on Industry–Academia partnerships.

✓ Celebrity educator Anand Kumar of Super 30, Sonam Wangchuk of 3 Idiots Fame and various others will speak on key issues concerning Education in the new world.

7. Which state government has launched Mission Shakti sports initiative?

A) Gujarat B) Maharashtra ☒

C) Madhya Pradesh D) Jharkhand

✓ Bollywood actor Aamir Khan has launched a Maharashtra government's initiative "Mission Shakti" at the function in Ballarpur to train athletes from Chandrapur and Gadchiroli for international events like the Olympics.

✓ The aim of Mission Shakti is to groom tribal student for an Olympic medal by 2024. The mission is directed towards six sporting disciplines – archery, shooting, volleyball, swimming, weightlifting and gymnastics. The actor also felicitated a team of tribal mountaineers who had recently scaled Mount Everest as part of 'Mission Shaurya'

8. Which Indian wrestler bagged gold in women's 53 Kg category of the 2019 Poland Open wrestling tournament?

A) Sakshi Malik

B) Babita Kumari

C) Vinesh Phogat ☒

D) Kavita Devi

✓ Star India grappler Vinesh Phogat has bagged gold in women's 53kg category of the Poland Open wrestling tournament in Warsaw on 4th August 2019. She prevailed 3 – 2 over local wrestler Roksana in the final of the competition.

✓ This was her 3rd consecutive gold in the 53 Kg category after winning Gold at Grand Prix of Spain and at the Yasar Dogu International at Istanbul, Turkey last month.

9. Which space agency has discovered first nearby super – earth planet GJ357d?

A) NASA ☒

B) Roscosmos

C) CNES

D) ISRO

✓ The NASA scientists have characterized the first potentially habitable world outside our own solar system that may be suitable for life. The super-earth planet — named GJ 357 d — was spotted by NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) mission.

✓ It is estimated that planet is about six times the size of our planet and located a mere 31 light-years away. The planet orbits a dwarf star in the Hydra constellation.

- ✓ It may be noted that a super – earth is an extrasolar planet with a mass higher than Earths' but substantially below those of the Solar Systems' ice giants, Uranus and Neptune.

10. India's first 3D Smart Traffic Signal 'Intelights' has launched in which city?

- A) Lucknow B) Indore
C) Jaipur D) Mohali ☒

- ✓ In a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, Mohali traffic police have launched 3D Smart Traffic Signal devised by the students of a Chandigarh university.
- ✓ The wireless system called 'Intelights', has been installed at the traffic crossing near the Airport Road, on a pilot project basis, and will regulate traffic signals with a smart bird's eye view wireless sensor system.
- ✓ Intelights proposes a 360° solution to curb the rising problem of traffic congestion. One of the major reasons for traffic congestion is the inefficient working of traffic signal timers installed at intersections.
- ✓ Presently, the timers of traffic lights display a preset value which leads to waste of time. For instance, consider a scenario where green light of '20 seconds' is displayed but there is no vehicle present at that particular intersection – thus leading to unnecessary waste of time.
- ✓ To tackle this issue, 'Intelights' proposes an Intelligent Traffic Timer Control; which uses dynamic signal control technology to adjust the timers of red, yellow and green lights according to the traffic density at an intersection.
- ✓ The system uses existing CCTV cameras to gather live traffic video feed, and automatically evaluates the traffic density using Artificial Intelligence, and sets the signal timers accordingly.

1. The researchers at which IIT have developed portable device to detect bacteria without cell culture or microbiological assays?

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

- ✓ The researchers at IIT Guwahati have developed a low-cost portable device to detect bacteria without cell culture or microbiological assays. The hand-held device with bio-compatible sensor can also diagnose time-critical illnesses such as meningitis.

- ✓ The bacterial infection is a common cause of morbidity & mortality across the world. Despite the development of a range of antibiotics, the challenge continues to lie in diagnosing bacterial infection early on. The present techniques are extremely time consuming.

- ✓ Presently, cells derived from a patient are cultured or grown in laboratories to detect and micro – analyse bacteria. However, the new portable device can instantly detect the charges on the cell walls of bacteria.

✓ The research has enabled rapid detection of bacteria, which is not just important in healthcare but also in anti – bioterrorism measures and environmental monitoring. The team work has been recently patented & published in the July 2019 issue of 'Journal of Materials Chemistry of the Royal Society of Chemistry'.

2. Jay Om Prakash, who passed away recently, was the veteran personality of which field?

- A) Photography B) Film Industry ☒
- C) Journalism D) Sports

✓ Jay Om Prakash (93), the veteran filmmaker and Hrithik Roshan's maternal grandfather, has passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra on August 7.

3. The 5th edition of International Army Scout Masters Competition has started in which military station?

- A) Jaisalmer ☒ B) Gwalior
C) Dehradun D) Agra

✓ The 5th edition of International Army Scout Masters Competition 2019 has started at Jaisalmer military station in Rajasthan from August 5 – 16.

- ✓ The purpose of the International Army Games is to foster military co-operation between the participating nations, develop trust between the armies for the sake of establishing a peaceful society, improving professional training and sharing of best practices being followed by participating nations.

✓ The teams from eight countries viz. India, China, Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Sudan are participating in the competition. The competition consists of five stages wherein Navigation Skills, Endurance, Marksmanship and Team spirit will be evaluated by a panel of international judges.

4. Nobel laureate Toni Morrison has passed away. She was from which country?

- A) Germany
- B) United Kingdom
- C) France
- D) United States ☒

✓ Nobel Prize – winning US author Toni Morrison (88) has passed away in New York, United States on 5th August 2019. She is the first African – American woman to win a Nobel Prize in Literature for her novels depicting the struggles of black Americans living in a white society ridden with racial discrimination.

- ✓ She won the 1988 Pulitzer Prize for her fiction “Beloved”. In 2012, President Barack Obama presented her with the highest civilian honor – ‘Presidential Medal of Freedom’.

5. Which city has been chosen as the venue for the main event of the 5th National Handloom Day?

- A) Patna
B) Udaipur
C) Bhubaneswar ☒
D) Amravati

- ✓ In India, the 5th edition of National Handloom Day (NHD) has celebrated on 7th August to honour the handloom weavers in the country and also highlight India's handloom industry.

- ✓ The day seeks to focus on the contribution of handloom to the socio economic development of India and also to

increase the income of weavers. This year, Bhubaneswar has been chosen as the venue for the main event due to its rich tradition of Handlooms.

- ✓ The prime objective of holding the NHD in Bhubaneswar is to empower women and girls. The day was chosen as the National Handloom Day to commemorate the Swadeshi Movement which was launched on 7th August 1905 in Calcutta Town Hall to protest against the partition of Bengal by the British Government. The movement had aimed at reviving domestic products and production processes.

6. Which union ministry has unveiled draft e – commerce norms for consumer protection?

- A) Ministry of Coal
- B) Ministry of Railways
- C) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- D) Ministry of Consumer Affairs ☒

- ✓ The Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has released the draft “e – commerce guidelines for consumer protection 2019” to protect the interest of online shoppers.
- ✓ The draft stated that an e-commerce entity such as Amazon and Flipkart cannot directly or indirectly influence the price of the goods or services.
- ✓ It added that every e – commerce entity needs to publish the name & contact details of the grievance officer on their website along with the mechanism by which users can lodge their complaints.
- ✓ As per the draft, e-commerce platforms cannot falsely represent themselves as consumers or post reviews about goods & services in their name. The platforms are also required to display terms of contract with the seller. The draft is open for stakeholder comments for 45 days or till September 16, 2019.

7. Which state government has launched a new higher education model ‘RACE’?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Maharashtra

C) Rajasthan ☒

D) Jharkhand

- ✓ The Rajasthan government has launched a new higher education model titled “Resource Assistance for Colleges with Excellence (RACE)” for distribution of faculties and movable assets among the government colleges at the district level to rationalize the availability of resources.
- ✓ The new model will create a pool for sharing of facilities which will benefit the colleges lacking infrastructure. The colleges in need will have to submit their requirement to the nodal college in the district that will send the teachers on deputation (if needed) and provide the facilities such as projectors, digital libraries, equipment and technicians.

8. Urkund software, which is in news recently, is related to which field?

- A) Insurance
- B) Education ☒
- C) Digital Banking
- D) Share Market

- ✓ According to the University Grants Commission (UGC), all universities in India – public and private – will get final subscription to access the Swedish anti-plagiarism software Urkund from September 1, 2019. The Urkund software was chosen through a global tender process.
- ✓ As part of the exercise to prevent plagiarism in the coming years, the software will be provided free of cost anti-plagiarism software to all 900 universities, including private players. It will be available to teachers, students, researchers & everyone.
- ✓ The Union Government also notified the UGC (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018 to prescribe the graded punishment for plagiarism.
- ✓ Beside this, a UGC committee on improving research culture, headed by former Indian Institute of Science (IIS) director P. Balaram, noted that Indian academics have contributed 35% of all articles published in about 11,000 fake journals between 2010 and 2014. Most of these articles were in fake engineering journals, followed by articles in fake journals of bio-medicine and social sciences.

9. Which zone of Indian railways has introduced a new Biometric Token System?

- A) North Western Railway
- B) Western Railways ☒
- C) East Central Railway
- D) South Western Railway

- ✓ The Western and Central Railways have introduced a new Biometric Token System (BTS) by which passengers travelling in the general coach, where seats are not reserved, are given a token roughly 3 hours before the train's departure.
- ✓ These tokens are issued on a first – come, first – served basis after accepting biometric information of individual passengers. The tokens carry a serial number on them, which governs the order in which passengers will board the train.
- ✓ The use of biometrics cuts out the touts and helps genuine passengers. The system is also cost – effective, as an average of Rs 20 was spent on each train.

10. Which state / UT government has launched a project titled 'Oral History Programme'?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Kerala
- C) Rajasthan
- D) Delhi ☒

- ✓ The Delhi government has launched a project titled 'Oral History Programme' that seeks to record oral histories of the city as told by its senior citizens.
- ✓ The project is an attempt to democratise knowledge by recording stories told by hundred of common people in Delhi from different strata of society over the next two years. It is undertaken by Delhi Archives in collaboration with Ambedkar University.
- ✓ It aims to document the history of the city from the perspective of its inhabitants. The Oral History programme is actually reviving a 3 decade old project of the Delhi Archives.
- ✓ In the 1980s, the official repository of the city's records began an oral history programme that interviewed

eminent personalities, including Gulzarilal Nanda, who served as the acting Prime Minister of the country twice, and Sushila Nayyar, a close aide of Mahatma Gandhi. But the project was stopped after 56 eminent people were interviewed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

- A) 25 B) 30
C) 35 ☒ D) 15

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

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

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

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

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

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

9. Which organisation has announced Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award?

- A) ISRO ☒ B) DRDO C) VSSC D) BARC

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

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

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

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

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

1. Which state has topped the rankings in Health Ministry report card on "Breastfeeding & Infant & Child feeding Practices"?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

D) Digital India: Success to Excellence ☒

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

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

- A) DRDO B) ISRO
C) VSSC ☒ D) BARC

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

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

- A) 1974 B) 1978
C) 1976 ☒ D) 1977

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

- ✓ Though, Indian Railways has clarified that the train has not been suspended & will run normally. The Samjhauta Express (also called the Friendship Express) consists of 6 sleeper coaches and an AC three – tier coach.

- ✓ The train service was started on 22nd July 1976, under the Shimla Agreement that settled the 1971 war between the two nations. On the Indian side, the train runs from Delhi–Attari and from Lahore–Wagah on the Pakistan side. The word Samjhauta means “agreement” in both Hindi and Urdu.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. What is the theme of the 2019 edition of World Biofuel Day?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. Which Indian wrestler won gold in the 65kg category at 2019 Tbilisi Grand Prix Wrestling tournament?
- A) Sushil Kumar B) Bajrang Punia ☒
C) Yogeshwar Dutt D) Pawan Kumar
- ✓ Bajrang Punia won gold in the 65 Kg category at Tbilisi Grand Prix Wrestling tournament. In the 65 Kg final of the men's free style competition, Punia prevailed 2-0 over Iran's Peiman Bibyani in the capital city of Georgia. It is 4th gold of the season for the Asian Games champion Bajrang after standing atop the podium at Dan Kolov, Asian Championship and Ali Aliev tournament.
2. Which Indian sportsperson has won the men's title at the 2019 Hyderabad Open badminton championship?
- A) B. Sai Praneeth B) Parupalli Kashyap
C) Srikanth Kidambi D) Sourabh Verma ☒
- ✓ In Badminton, Sourabh Verma from Madhya Pradesh clinched the Men's Singles title in the 2019 Hyderabad Open championship at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium. He defeated Loh Kean Yew of Singapore 21-13, 14-21, 21-16 in the thrilling summit clash that lasted 52 minutes.
- ✓ Earlier, in May 2019, Sourabh had won the Slovenian International title. He had also won two Super 100 titles at the Dutch Open and Russian Open last year.
3. Which Indian Armed force has launched "Mission Reach Out" in Jammu?
- A) Indian Air Force B) Indian Navy
C) Indian Army ☒ D) Indian Coast Guard
- ✓ The Indian Army has launched "Mission Reach Out" in Jammu to ensure availability of basic necessities & essential services in the region post the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 and reorganization of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ✓ Regarding to this issue, a high level "Mission Reach Out" conference was held in the Nagrota Military Station to review the prevalent situation in the region. It was chaired by White Knight Corps Commander Lt Gen Paramjit Singh.
- ✓ The numerous initiatives undertaken by the Army under "Mission Reach Out" are as follows:
1. Mobile medical care units with essential medicines and lady medical officers (wherever necessary).
 2. Providing water in locations where the supply was disrupted, provision of essentials (including rations),
 3. Assistance in transportation of patients to hospitals, facilitating people to speak to their near and dear ones through Army exchange and creating a safe environment for ATMs, banks and hospitals to function.
4. Which Indian journalist has won the 2019 Prem Bhatia Award for political reporting?
- A) Rajdeep Sardesai ☒ B) Ravish Kumar
C) Barkha Dutt D) Prannoy Roy
- ✓ Veteran journalist and consulting editor at India Today TV, Rajdeep Sardesai has been conferred with the prestigious 2019 Prem Bhatia Award for Outstanding Political Reporting on 11th August at the India International Centre in New Delhi.
- ✓ He won the award for his commentary on 2019 General Elections. The award is given in memory of veteran journalist Prem Bhatia who died in 1995. It carries a prize of Rs 2 lakh.
5. Who is set to be the first woman president of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA)?
- A) Aditi Pant B) Chandrima Shaha ☒
C) Asima Chatterjee D) Sulochana Gadgil
- ✓ Dr. Chandrima Shaha is set to be the first woman president of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA). She is currently Professor of Eminence at the National Institute of Immunology (NII) of Delhi.
- ✓ As a biologist, Ms. Shaha has focussed on apoptosis (or programmed cell death). Her laboratory uses the uni-cellular leishmania parasite as a model.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- ✓ The policy sets out a testosterone limit for transgender and gender – diverse players who want to play for state and national women's teams.
 - ✓ To be eligible for elite women's teams, the players must show a testosterone concentration of less than 10 nanomoles per litre over at least 12 months.
 - ✓ They must also be able to demonstrate their elected gender is consistent with how they are living their lives on a daily basis.
 - ✓ The guidelines cover everything from victimisation to privacy and providing suitable facilities, as well as the collection of personal information.
-

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

A) 12 B) 5 ☒ C) 10 D) 8

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. Which union ministry has launched Swachha Survakshan Grameen?

A) Ministry of Rural Development

B) Ministry of Jal Shakti ☒

C) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

D) Ministry of Panchayati Raj

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

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

A) Tamil Nadu ☒

B) Kerala

C) Karnataka

D) Andhra Pradesh

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

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

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

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

A) IIT Kanpur

B) IIT Kharagpur ☒

C) IIT Bombay

D) IIT Delhi

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

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

A) Sanjeev Kapoor

B) Ranveer Brar

C) Vikas Khanna

D) Priyam Chatterjee ☒

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

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

A) NSG

B) RPF ☒

C) BSF

D) CRPF

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

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

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

A) Mariano Rivera Paz

B) Jimmy Morales

C) Alejandro Giammattei ☒

D) Alejandro Maldonado

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

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

A) Rs 5000

B) Rs 6000

C) Rs 3000 ☒

D) Rs 4000

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

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

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

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

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

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

A) August 11

B) August 12 ☒

C) August 14

D) August 13

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

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

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

A) August 12

B) August 13 ☒

C) August 14

D) August 15

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. The researchers at which IIT have developed bone substitutes from eggshells?

A) IIT Madras

B) IIT Delhi

C) IIT Bombay

D) IIT Hyderabad ☒

- ✓ The researchers at IIT Hyderabad and BR Ambedkar National Institute of Technology (NIT) of Jalandhar have developed a process by which bone implant materials can be synthesized from waste egg shells.
- ✓ They seek to produce bone substitute materials such as – Tri-Calcium phosphate (TCP) without the use of toxic chemicals. The natural source of choice of the IIT Hyderabad researchers is egg shells. Eggshells are made up largely of calcium (95.1%) along with small amounts of proteins and water.
- ✓ In modern medicine, damaged and missing bones are replaced with bone from either patient or donor, or by using artificial materials containing calcium, such as Plaster of Paris, and phosphate compounds like hydroxyapatite and calcium phosphate. TCP is a commonly used bone substitute material from natural sources.

2. The researchers at which IIT have developed industrial and field robot 'GraspMan'?

A) IIT Madras ☒

B) IIT Delhi

C) IIT Bombay

D) IIT Hyderabad

- ✓ The researchers from IIT Madras have developed a multi-modal robot 'GraspMan' with good grasping, manipulation and locomotion abilities for use in industrial and field applications.
- ✓ The GraspMan is consists of a pair of graspers, which provide morphological adaptation. It will enable to conform to the geometry of the object being grasped.
- ✓ This allows the grasper to hold objects securely and manipulate it much like the human hand. The motivation behind this research is to realize a robot with a minimalistic design that can overcome the need for task-specific robots that are capable of navigating and manipulating across different environments without increasing the system complexity.

3. Who has become the first Indian to win gold at the World Junior Wrestling Championships after 18 years?

A) Akash Antil

B) Parveen Malik

C) Vijay Patil

D) Deepak Punia ☒

- ✓ Wrestler Deepak Punia has won gold in men's 86 Kg freestyle bout at the World Junior Wrestling Championships after beating Russia's Alik Shebzukhov in the final at Tallinn, Estonia.
- ✓ With this, Punia has become the first Indian to win gold at the junior World Championship after 18 years. Earlier, Ramesh Gulia (69 Kg) and Palwinder Singh Cheema (130 Kg) had won international gold medals at the junior circuit in 2001.

4. Which state has got award at the World Education Summit – 2019?

A) Rajasthan ☒

B) Uttar Pradesh

C) Maharashtra

D) Madhya Pradesh

- ✓ Rajasthan has bagged the "Best Innovation & Initiative Leadership Award" for its achievements in higher education in the 14th World Education Summit.
- ✓ The award was received by the Minister of State for Higher Education Bhanwar Singh Bhati at the 14th summit in New Delhi. The representatives of 8 countries and 17 States of India participated in the 2 day summit.

5. VB Chandrasekhar, who passed away recently, was associated to which sports?

A) Basketball

B) Cricket ☒

C) Football

D) Hockey

- ✓ V.B. Chandrasekhar (57), the former India and Tamil Nadu cricketer, has passed away in Chennai on 15th August 2019. Fondly referred to as VB, he represented India in 7 ODIs, with an innings of 53 being his highest score.
- ✓ In 81 First Class matches, Chandrasekhar notched up 4999 runs at 43.09 with 10 centuries. After his eventful cricketering career, where he was a part of the last Tamil Nadu team to triumph in the Ranji Trophy in 1988.

- ✓ Later, he led the state side and then briefly played for Goa — VB focussed on coaching and commentary. Notably, he was the cricket manager of Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in the franchise's first 3 years and was instrumental in getting the iconic M.S. Dhoni to CSK.

6. Which former Indian athlete has been appointed as a member of the Athletes Commission of the Asian Athletics Association (AAA)?

- A) Anju Bobby George
- B) Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore
- C) Karnam Malleswari
- D) PT Usha ☒

- ✓ Legendary Indian athlete and Olympian P.T. Usha has been appointed as a member of the Athletes Commission of the Asian Athletics Association (AAA). Usha will be one of the six members of the AAA Athletes Commission.
- ✓ The commission will be headed by 1992 Olympics gold medallist hammer thrower Andrey Abduvaliyev of Uzbekistan. Usha is known for her stellar performance at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, where she missed the bronze in the 400m hurdles finals by 1/100 second.
- ✓ The 'Paygoli Express' was awarded with the prestigious Arjuna Award in 1983. Recently, Usha is nominated for the prestigious International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) Veteran Pin Award.

7. Which state government has launched a programme for student entrepreneurs "E-Step"?

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

- ✓ The Karnataka government has launched an initiative E-Step to empower student start-ups. The focus of E-Step is on boot camps, mentoring & training programs which cover various aspects of entrepreneurship.
- ✓ The programme is part of Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS). It is specially crafted for students / start-ups / entrepreneurs to understand the basics of entrepreneurship from experienced trainers.

- ✓ The first phase of E-Step will be to organize day long boot camps across all New Age Incubation Networks (NAIN) across the state. The boot camp gives participants an overview of the current start-up system.

8. India's first private Space Science Museum has opened in which city?

- A) Hyderabad ☒
- B) Ujjain
- C) Dehradun
- D) Lucknow

- ✓ India's first private Space Science Museum has opened in Hyderabad to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Birla Archaeological and Cultural Research Institute (BACRI).
- ✓ It is a collaborative effort between the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and the B M Birla Science Centre. The ISRO on its part is providing some 65 models of various spacecrafts, satellites and rockets of varying sizes.
- ✓ This museum exhibits scale models of Indian Launch vehicles GSLV Mk-III, GSLV Mk-II & PSLV, Chandrayan I, Mars Orbiter spacecraft, APPLE, Aryabhata, Bhaskara, Rohini RS-1 and a model of the International Space Station (ISS).

9. Advait Bhartia, who recently climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, is from which city?

- A) Delhi
- B) Pune ☒
- C) Chandigarh
- D) Bhubaneswar

- ✓ Advait Bhartia, a 9 year old boy from Pune, has recently climbed the highest peak in Africa – Mount Kilimanjaro – in a span of just 7 days. Advait is fondly called 'Simbum ToTo' (Little Simba).
- ✓ He reached the top of mountain on 31st July 2019 under the supervision of his expedition leader Samir Patham. The trek was organized by Pune based adventure and trekking company Adventure Pulse.
- ✓ Mt.Kilimanjaro in Tanzania is about 4,900m from its base and 5,895m above sea level. The mountain has been the subject of many scientific studies because of its shrinking glaciers and disappearing ice fields.

10. Who is the author of the book "Kashmir's Untold Story: Declassified"?

- A) Parvez Sharma B) Iqbal Chand Malhotra ☒
C) Jabbar Patel D) Aleksa Muhammed Fazil

- ✓ The book "Kashmir's Untold Story: Declassified" has been authored by filmmaker Iqbal Chand Malhotra and defence analyst Maroof Raza. It will tell the riveting story of the history of Jammu and Kashmir (J & K), from the time of its political and geographic consolidation under Maharaja Gulab Singh to the present day.
- ✓ It will also shed light on why the special status was integral to the accession treaty. The book would reveal amazing insights into the Government of India's policy towards the state, right from 1889, when it first imposed central rule and dispossessed the rule of the then Maharaja, till date.
- ✓ It will also provide answers to some of the most asked questions on the situation in the Valley, like "Why has this state of siege in the Kashmir valley continued for 72 years since the Partition of India?", "What role has Pakistan played in it all these years?", or the question of the hour, "Will there ever be a resolution to the militancy in the state?". Now, the former state has been bifurcated into two union territories – J & K and Ladakh.

1. The National Tribal Festival "Aadi Mahotsav" has started in which region?
- A) Shimla B) Udaipur
- C) Ladakh ☒ D) Delhi
- ✓ The 9-day National Tribal Festival "Aadi Mahotsav" is a joint initiative of Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs & Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED).
- ✓ On 17th August 2019, the fest is started at Polo Ground in Leh-Ladakh with theme "A celebration of the spirit of Tribal Craft, Culture and Commerce". The event will see around 160 Tribal artisans from more than 20 states across the country, actively participating and showcasing their masterpieces.
- ✓ The Mahotsav will showcase traditional art and handicrafts and cultural heritage of the country. The product range will consists of Tribal Textiles from Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Odisha, West Bengal; Tribal Jewellery from Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and North East; Tribal Paintings like Gond art from Madhya Pradesh, Warli art from Maharashtra; Metal craft from Chhattisgarh; Black pottery from Manipur, and Naturals and Organic products from Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka.
2. Rizia Rahman, who passed away recently, was the renowned novelist of which country?
- A) Indonesia B) Myanmar
- C) Iran D) Bangladesh ☒
- ✓ Rizia Rahman (79), the renowned Bangladeshi novelist and the 'Ekushey Padak' winning author, has passed away in Dhaka on August 17. Some of her wellknown novels are as follows: Bong Theke Bangla, Rokter Okshor and Ghar-Bhanga-Ghar.
3. Which state government has decided to set up Atal Bihari Vajpayee residential schools for children of labourers?
- A) Jharkhand B) Uttar Pradesh ☒
- C) Karnataka D) Haryana
- ✓ In Uttar Pradesh, the state government has decided to set up Atal Bihari Vajpayee residential schools for children of labourers in all 18 divisions of state.
- ✓ Beside this, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced many projects in state in remembrance of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee including a memorial in Bateshwar, the former prime minister's native village in Agra.
- ✓ A 'Centre of Excellence' will also establish in DAV College in Kanpur where Atal ji had his education. The state government also announced that the work to set up a medical university in Lucknow is underway and a satellite centre of KGMU is being set up in Balrampur, from where Vajpayee had contested elections in 1957.
4. Which state government has rolled out the Grama and Ward Volunteer system?
- A) Andhra Pradesh ☒ B) Chhattisgarh
- C) Rajasthan D) Maharashtra
- ✓ On 73rd Independence Day, Andhra Pradesh CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the Grama and Ward Volunteer system for effective delivery of schemes.
- ✓ The basic idea behind implementing the scheme is to ensure corruption free governance and last mile delivery of welfare schemes and services to every household and citizen in the State.
- ✓ The scheme will involve over 2.8 lakh volunteers. Under the scheme, one volunteer will cover 50 families in each village. Identity cards will be given to each volunteer and they would get an honorarium of Rs 5,000 per month. A tollfree telephone number – 1902 – would be set up at the call centre in the Chief Minister Office to receive the grievances of the people.
5. Who has been awarded Tamil Nadu government's Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Award?
- A) Kailasavadivoo Sivan ☒ B) Ritu Karidhal
- C) Mylswamy Annadurai D) A.S Kiran Kumar
- ✓ On the occasion of the 73rd Independence Day 2019, ISRO Chairman Dr. Kailasavadivoo Sivan has been honoured

with the Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam award by the Tamil Nadu government.

- ✓ However, Dr. Sivan could not receive the award at the Independence Day celebrations at Fort St. George but he is expected to collect the award from the Chief Minister at a later date.
- ✓ He won the award in recognition of his stellar work in promotion of science and technology. The Kalam award is to honour those who work for promoting scientific growth, humanities and students' welfare and the awardees should hail from Tamil Nadu. The award carries 8 gm gold medal, Rs. 5 lakh in cash and a citation.

6. Madan Mani Dixit, the veteran Litterateur & Journalist has passed away. He was from which country?

- A) South Africa B) India
C) Sri Lanka D) Nepal ☒

- ✓ Madan Mani Dixit (96), a pioneering writer and Journalist, has passed away in Kathmandu on 15th August 2019. He was fondly known as 'maadsaap' by his contemporaries and friends.
- ✓ Some of his famous works include Meri Nilima, Bhumisukt, Rig Veda and the short story, Kasle jityo kasle haryo?. He was awarded the prestigious Madan Puraskar of Nepal for his literary masterpiece "Madhavi". Dixit is also acknowledged as the first Photo Journalist of Nepal.

7. Jyske Bank, which has launched world's first negative interest rate mortgage, is associated to which country?

- A) Sweden B) Denmark ☒
- C) Norway D) Finland

- ✓ Denmark's third largest, Jyske Bank has launched the world's first negative interest rate mortgage and started to offer a 10-year mortgage deals at a negative interest rate of 0.5% a year.

- ✓ Under its negative mortgage, borrowers will pay the usual EMI but the outstanding amount will be slashed each month by more than the borrower has paid.
- ✓ The unconventional decision is the latest in a series of moves central and commercial banks in advanced economies have undertaken to revive demand and boost consumption.

8. India's first National Essential Diagnostics List (NEDL) has finalized by which organisation?

- A) ICMR ☒ B) AIIMS
- B) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- D) Tata Memorial Hospital

- ✓ The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has recently finalized the India's first National Essential Diagnostics List (NEDL) that recommends that at least 159 tests should be made available for patients in even basic government health facilities.
- ✓ The list aims to bridge the current regulatory system's gap that do not cover all the medical devices and In-Vitro Diagnostic device (IVD). The current system is equipped to manage only the few notified devices.
- ✓ With this, India has become the first country to compile such a list that would provide guidance to the government for deciding the kind of diagnostic tests that different healthcare facilities in villages and remote areas require.
- ✓ The list is meant for facilities from village till the district level. The list also encompasses tests relevant for new programmes such as Health and Wellness Centres under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
- ✓ In India, diagnostics (medical devices and in-vitro diagnostics) follow a regulatory framework based on the drug regulations under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Drugs and Cosmetics Rules 1945. Diagnostics are regulated under the regulatory provisions of the Medical Device Rules, 2017.

9. SUPRA Scheme, which is in news recently, is associated to which field?

A) Women Empowerment

B) Science & Technology ☒

C) Child Education

D) Digital Banking

- ✓ The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) has proposed a new scheme called Supra with the sole objective of funding exploration of new scientific and engineering breakthroughs with global impact.
- ✓ The initiative is part of the Prime Minister Modi's 100-day transformative ideas. The SUPRA (or Scientific and Useful Profound Research Advancement) scheme is designed to attract high quality research proposals consisting of new hypotheses or challenge existing ones and provide 'out-of-box' solutions.
- ✓ The SERB is a statutory body under the Department of Science and Technology to promote and fund research in different scientific disciplines.

10. Which union ministry has launched the 5th edition of Swachh Survekshan 2020 (SS 2020)?

A) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

B) Ministry of Rural Development

C) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs ☒

D) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

- ✓ In New Delhi, the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched the 5th edition of the annual cleanliness survey – Swachh Survekshan 2020 (SS 2020) with theme "Cleanliness is Our Right".
- ✓ The survey will be conducted in January 2020. On this occasion, the MoHUA also launched Swachh Nagar app for waste collection.
- ✓ The Ministry also launched the Water PLUS Protocol which aims to provide a guideline for cities and towns to ensure that no untreated waste-water is released into the environment thereby enabling sustainability of the sanitation value chain.

- ✓ A city could be given the tag of Water+ if it ensures 100% treatment of wastewater and 10% use of treated waste-water, among other things.

1. India's first Central Institute of Chemical Engineering & Technology (CICET) is proposed to set up in which state?
- A) Maharashtra B) Gujarat ☒
- C) Karnataka D) Uttar Pradesh
- ✓ Union Minister of State for Chemical and Fertilizers, Mansukh Mandaviya has recently announced that the India's first Central Institute of Chemical Engineering & Technology (CICET) will be set up in Gujarat to give boost to the chemical industry. The CICET will come up either at Ahmedabad or Surat. The proposed institute will help the chemical industry with research and innovations.
2. Damodar Ganesh Bapat, who passed away, was the noted personality of which field?
- A) Painting B) Social Work ☒
- C) Photography D) Journalism
- ✓ Damodar Ganesh Bapat (84), the noted social worker and Padma Shri awardee, has passed away in Bilaspur district, Chhattisgarh on August 17.
- ✓ He dedicated his life to the treatment and service of leprosy patients at an ashram run by Bharatiya Kushta Nivarak Sangh (BKNS) in Sothi village in Janjgir – Champa district of the state for the last 4½ decades. He played an instrumental role in making people aware about leprosy in tribal areas of the state.
3. Which country's team has won the 2019 T20 Physical Disability Cricket World Series?
- A) India ☒ B) England
- C) New Zealand D) Pakistan
- ✓ Indian cricket team has won the T20 Physical Disability World Cricket Series in England. In the final, India defeated England by 36 runs at the Blackfinch New Road ground in Worcester.
- ✓ The Indian team called itself Wadekar Warriors, in memory of former India captain Ajit Wadekar, who played an active role in All India Cricket Association for Physically Challenged (AICAPC).
- ✓ The AICAPC organised the selection and preparation for the event. The 6 nation tournament was organised by England and Wales Cricket Board.
4. The Special Purpose Trust Fund (SPTF) is associated to which international organisation?
- A) United Nations ☒ B) World Bank
- C) AIIB D) ADB
- ✓ India has recently contributed \$1 million to the UN Special Purpose Trust Fund (SPTF) for the Resident Coordinator System. The SPTF is a specific fund housed within the UN Secretariat.
- ✓ The fund has been established to receive, consolidate, manage and account for all contributions and financial transactions of the new Resident Coordinator system in a transparent and effective way. On real time basis, the SPTF webportal reflects all commitments, contributions and expenditures recorded for the fund.
5. On which date, the 2019 World Photography Day was observed recently?
- A) August 18 B) August 19 ☒
- C) August 17 D) August 16
- ✓ The World Photography Day is observed every year on August 19 to encourage photographers across the planet to share a single photo with the world with an aim – to share their world with the world.
- ✓ The date of August 19 was chosen to commemorate the invention of the Daguerreotype, a photographic process developed by Frenchmen Louis Daguerre and Joseph Nicephore Niepce in 1837.
- ✓ On 9th of January 1839, the French Academy of Sciences announced the Daguerreotype process. On August 19 that same year, the French government purchased the patent and announced the invention as a free gift to the world. This event was an important step in the development of modern-day photography.

6. What is the campaign of 2019 World Humanitarian Day?

A) #NotATarget

B) #PeopleHelpingPeople

C) #WomenHumanitarians ☒

D) #WorldNeedsMore

- ✓ The World Humanitarian Day is held every year on August 19 to pay tribute to aid workers who risk their lives in humanitarian service, and to rally support for people affected by crises around the world.
- ✓ The day recognizes humanitarian personnel and those who have lost their lives working for humanitarian causes. The 2019 World Humanitarian Day campaign – #WomenHumanitarians – honour the work of women in crises throughout the world.
- ✓ The day was designated by the UN General Assembly to commemorate the 19th of August 2003 bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq

7. The famous Hazratganj Chauraha, which has been renamed as Atal Chowk, is located in which district of Uttar Pradesh?

A) Agra

B) Allahabad

C) Meerut

D) Lucknow ☒

- ✓ The famous 'Hazratganj Chauraha' of Lucknow has been renamed as 'Atal Chowk' in memory of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The announcement came on the first death anniversary former PM.
- ✓ Hazratganj is a major Victorian style shopping area situated in the heart of the city. It houses showrooms, shopping complexes, restaurants, hotels, theatres, offices and businesses. Hazratganj shops sell the famous Lucknow Chikan material.
- ✓ Naza Market, part of Hazratganj, is the biggest market for computer / IT goods in the state and 2nd largest in India after Delhi's Nehru Place. Naza Market is also the biggest piracy market in whole Asia.

8. Where is the headquarters of National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW)?

A) New Delhi ☒

B) Ujjain

C) Dehradun

D) Lucknow

- ✓ Harshad Pandurang Thakur, Professor at Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), has been appointed as the new Director of National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW), New Delhi for a period of 5 years.
- ✓ The NIHFW is an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and is headquartered in New Delhi. It acts as an apex technical institute as well as a think tank for the promotion of health and family welfare programmes in the country.

9. Which renowned scientist has bagged the prestigious J C Bose Fellowship?

A) K Thangaraj ☒

B) Annie Zaidi

C) Raghunath Anant

D) Shiraz Minwalla

- ✓ Dr. K Thangaraj, Chief Scientist at the city based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) has bagged the prestigious J C Bose Fellowship for his outstanding scientific contributions in the field of population and medical genomics.
- ✓ The J C Bose fellowship is awarded to active scientists in recognition of their outstanding performance by the Science and Engineering Research Board, Department of Science & Technology.
- ✓ Dr K Thangaraj is a population geneticist. Some of his major works includes finding out the origin of Indian population – how humans migrated from Africa during different episodes and populated different parts of India.
- ✓ These studies led to further work on understanding how these populations interbred. He also showed how in the last 2000 years Indians started practicing endogamy resulting in many population specific genetic disorders.

10. Ranjit Guru, the noted journalist and columnist passed away. He was from which state?

- A) Jharkhand B) Odisha ☒
C) Bihar D) Uttar Pradesh

- ✓ Ranjit Guru (61), the noted Odisha journalist and columnist, has passed away in Bhubaneswar on August 18. He was working with leading Odia daily 'Sambad' in a senior editorial position.
- ✓ During his over a 3 decade long career in journalism, he was also associated with the leading newspapers like 'Anandabazar Patrika' and 'The Asian Age'.
-

1. Ansupa lake is located in which state?

- A) Maharashtra B) Odisha ☒
C) Kerala D) Uttar Pradesh

- ✓ The Odisha Wetland Authority has recently approved implementation of an integrated management plan for Chilika (India's largest brackish water lagoon), and Ansupa (State's largest freshwater lake). The plan for Chilika & Ansupa will cost Rs 180 crore.
- ✓ The five year management of lakes is intended at strengthening livelihood of thousands of fishermen relying on the two water-bodies. Chilika is spread over 1,100 sq km and lakhs of tourists visit the lake to watch endangered Irrawaddy dolphins and migratory birds during winter.
- ✓ While Ansupa is famous for its sweet water fish, especially for labeo bata locally known as pohala. It is spread over almost 2 sq.km and is also the wintering ground for 32 species of migratory birds. Its calmness, scenic beauty and forest coverage behold the visitors.

2. Which state government has launched School Fagadaba to improve infrastructure in government schools?

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

- ✓ Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh launched a scheme named "School Fagadaba" (Make education better) to improve infrastructure of government schools in the state.
- ✓ The aim of the scheme is to ensure better infrastructure, quality education and overall improvement of government schools to make them model schools. In the first phase of the scheme, one school from each of the 60 Assembly constituencies in the state has been selected.
- ✓ The overall purpose of School Fagadaba is to improve the government schools in terms of physical and manpower gaps and increase in enrollment of students.

3. Which Indian personality has been conferred the UAE's highest civil honour 'Order of Zayed'?

- A) Ram Nath Kovind B) Narendra Modi ☒
C) Amitabh Bachchan D) Lata Mangeshkar

- ✓ On 23rd August 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will embark on a 3 day official visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain. During the visit, PM Modi will receive the the UAE's highest civil honour "Order of Zayed".
- ✓ The honour was conferred to him in April 2019 in recognition of his distinguished leadership that gave a big boost to bilateral relations between the two countries. The award is named after the UAE's founding father Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.
- ✓ So far, 6 countries — Russia, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Palestine and Afghanistan — have given their highest award to Prime Minister Modi. After that, PM Modi will visit Bahrain that will be the first-ever Prime Ministerial visit from India to Bahrain.

4. NCPCR and which IIT have developed a kit to spread sexual – abuse awareness?

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

- ✓ The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) in collaboration with IIT Kanpur has developed a kit to spread sexual-abuse awareness among children by using interactive means to teach them about personal safety.
- ✓ The kit is a set of cards, posters, short animation clips and games. It can be used by teachers or NGOs to conduct an interactive workshop for children about sexual-abuse awareness.
- ✓ The kit also features game cards as an intervention to assess the learning acquired by children. It can be used in classrooms for kids aged between 8–12 and in a group of 30–35 students in one session. The workshop kit has been vetted by the psychologists at Central Institute of Psychiatry of Ranchi, and a revised version will be developed based on their feedback.

5. Mohammed Zahur Hashmi, who has passed away recently, was the veteran personality of which field?

- A) Journalism B) Politics
C) Film Industry ☒ D) Photography

✓ Mohammed Zahur Hashmi (92), the veteran music composer, has passed away in Mumbai on August 20, 2019. Popularly known as Khayyam, he was best known for his music in classic films such as 'Umrao Jaan' and 'Kabhi Kabhie'.

✓ He was a recipient of Sangeet Natak Akademi Award and Padma Bhushan. In 2016, the veteran composer established Khayyam Jagjeet Kaur KPG Charitable Trust and pledged to donate his entire wealth to the trust to support budding artists and technicians in India.

6. Who is the head of the task force on Direct Tax Code which recently submitted report to Union Finance Ministry?

- A) G C Srivastava B) Mansi Kedia
C) Girish Ahuja D) Akhilesh Ranjan ☒

✓ The task force, headed by CBDT member Akhilesh Ranjan, constituted by the Union government for drafting the new Direct Tax Code (DTC) has recently submitted its report to Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman.

✓ The task force was constituted to replace the 6 decades old Income Tax Act 1961. It is believed that the task force has suggested changes in the slab for personal income tax & corporate tax.

✓ At present, the personal income tax structure has 3 categories — for people below the age of 60, for people above the age of 60 but less than 80, and the third for people of 80 years and above.

✓ Currently, companies with turnover up to Rs 400 crore attract tax at the rate of 25%. This covers 99.3% of all the companies registered. Now, the report is expected to be placed in Parliament as a part of Union Budget 2020–21.

7. Which country is the world's largest emitter of anthropogenic Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), according to latest report by environmental NGO Greenpeace?

- A) Iran B) India ☒
C) Russia D) South Africa

✓ Environmental NGO Greenpeace has recently released an analysis of a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Ozone Monitoring Instrument (OMI) satellite data.

✓ As per country-wise world rankings, India is the world's largest emitter of Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) as it has the maximum hotspots. It contributes more than 15% of all anthropogenic SO₂ hotspots in the world.

✓ The major SO₂ emission hotspots in India are Singrauli in Madhya Pradesh, Neyveli and Chennai in Tamil Nadu, Talcher and Jharsuguda in Odisha, Korba in Chhattisgarh, Kutch in Gujarat, Ramagundam in Telangana and Chandrapur and Koradi in Maharashtra.

✓ According to report, the vast majority of plants in India lack Flue-Gas Desulfurization (FGD) technology to reduce their air pollution. Individually, the Norilsk smelter complex in Russia is the largest SO₂ emission hotspot in the world, followed by Kriel in Mpumalanga province in South Africa and Zagroz in Iran. Singrauli in Madhya Pradesh is at 5th position.

8. Which state government has recently classified Nicotine as Class A poison?

- A) Punjab B) Karnataka ☒
C) Haryana D) Odisha

✓ The Karnataka government has recently classified nicotine as Class A poison by amending the Karnataka Poisons (Possession and Sale) Rules 2015. The move is to curb illegal sale, smuggling of nicotine cartridges & e – cigarettes.

✓ Highly toxic chemicals (such as cyanogen, hydrocyanic acid, nitrogen peroxide, and phosgene) which even in very small quantities as gas or vapour in the air are dangerous to life.

9. Dr. Jagannath Mishra, who passed away recently, was the former chief minister of which state?

- A) Jharkhand B) Uttar Pradesh
C) Bihar ☒ D) Rajasthan

- ✓ Dr. Jagannath Mishra (82), the 3-times former chief minister of Bihar, has passed away in Delhi on August 19. Mishra was the last Congress chief minister of Bihar between December 1989 and March 1990. He also served as a Union minister in the P V Narasimha Rao cabinet.
- ✓ He was one of the most powerful leaders of the state in pre-Mandal politics who brought the infamous 'Press Bill' to curtail the freedom of the press. Currently, he was a member of Bhartiya Jan Congress (Rashtriya).

10. The underground British-era Bunker turned Museum has come up in which city of Maharashtra?

- A) Mumbai ☒ B) Nagpur
C) Nashik D) Aurangabad

- ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind has recently inaugurated thematic underground British-era Bunker turned Museum inside the Raj Bhavan at Malabar Hill in Mumbai. The 15,000 sq.ft museum has Virtual Reality Booths (VRBs) in which visitors can "time travel" to the 19th century when the bunker was created to fire cannons at approaching enemy ships.
- ✓ The history of Raj Bhavan has also been depicted in another section. In 2016, the British-era bunker was discovered by Governor Ch. Vidyasagar Rao. It is made up of 13 rooms such as Shell Store, Gun Shell, Cartridge Store and Central Artillery Store.
- ✓ The underground passage has a proper drainage system and inlets for fresh air and light. The bunker dates back to the pre-World War I era and is believed to have been an asset of the battery stationed near the coast to defend Bombay Castle from naval attacks.

1. Which state government has rolled 'Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana' health insurance scheme?

- A) Maharashtra B) Punjab ☒
- C) Kerala D) Uttar Pradesh

- ✓ To mark the 75th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, the Punjab government has rolled out a mega health insurance scheme named 'Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana'. It will cover 76% of the state's population.
- ✓ The scheme has clubbed with the Centre's health insurance scheme titled 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) for the poor.
- ✓ As per latest Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC), Ayushman Bharat would have covered only 14.86 lakh families while the Punjab scheme in its new form, will benefit a total of 46 lakh families. Like the original PMJAY, the Punjab government will provide cashless health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh per year.
- ✓ The Centre and the state government will bear the cost of the annual premium for 14.86 lakh families in the ratio of 60:40. For the remaining beneficiaries, the Punjab government will bear the entire expense.
- ✓ The Punjab scheme with 1,396 treatment packages will be implemented through over 450 empanelled hospitals, including 200 government hospitals.

2. NISHTHA programme, which is in news recently, is associated to which field?

- A) Mangalyaan B) Education ☒
- C) Digital Banking D) Women Empowerment

- ✓ On 21st August 2019, the Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched the world's biggest teacher training programme NISHTHA in New Delhi under which more than 42 lakh teachers will be trained across the country.
- ✓ The acronym 'NISHTHA' stands for 'National Initiative for School Head's and Teachers' Holistic Advancement'. The purpose of the integrated programme is to build the capacities of around 42 lakh participants covering all

teachers and Heads of the school at the elementary level in all government schools, faculty members of states councils of Educational Research and Training and other educational departments.

3. Babulal Gaur, who passed away recently, was the former Chief Minister of which state?

- A) Jharkhand B) Himachal Pradesh
- C) Uttar Pradesh D) Madhya Pradesh ☒

- ✓ In Madhya Pradesh, former Chief Minister of the state Babulal Gaur (89) has passed away in Bhopal on 21st August 2019. He retired from electoral politics in 2018 citing old age. He served as the Chief Minister of MP from August 2004 to November 2005 and represented Govindpura Vidhan Sabha seat 10 times.

4. Satendra Singh Lohia, who became the first Asian swimmer to cross the Catalina Channel of America, is from which state?

- A) Madhya Pradesh ☒ B) Rajasthan
- C) Punjab D) Haryana

- ✓ On 21st August 2019, Indian Para swimmer Satendra Singh Lohia from Madhya Pradesh has scripted history by becoming the first Asian swimmer to cross the Catalina Channel of America. He holds the Asian record of crossing both the English and Catalina channels.
- ✓ Gwalior-born Satendra led the Indian Para Relay team along with 5 team mates and crossed the Catalina Channel in 11 hours 34 minutes. At that time, the water temperature was around 13 degrees Celsius. In 2014, Satyendra has also honoured with the highest sports award of Madhya Pradesh – Vikram Award.

5. Which Indian – American teenager has won the 2019 South Asian Spelling Bee contest?

- A) Kavya Kopparap B) Navneeth Murali ☒
- C) Dhruv Gaur D) Syamantak Payra

- ✓ Navneeth Murali, an Indian-American teenager from New Jersey, has won the 2019 South Asian Spelling Bee (SASB) contest. The prize money for this contest is USD

3,000. The SASB is an annual spelling bee platform in the US for children of South Asian descent.

- ✓ The competition is open to any student at or below the age of 14, who has at least one parent or grandparent who is of South Asian descent, or whose lineage can be traced to Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and / or Sri Lanka.

6. Which country has decided to hold SAARC Foreign Ministers' informal meet?

- A) Bhutan B) Nepal ☒
- C) India D) Sri Lanka

- ✓ Nepal is planning to hold SAARC Foreign Ministers' informal meet on the sidelines of the 74th UN General Assembly (UNGA) session in September 2019. The 18th SAARC summit was held in Kathmandu in 2014 and Pakistan was to host the next summit in 2016.
- ✓ But, the summit was cancelled after India boycotted the meeting, in the wake of the terror attack at a military base in Uri in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), which killed 19 soldiers.
- ✓ Other countries viz. Bangladesh, Bhutan and Afghanistan, also walked out following India's decision to exit the summit to step up diplomatic pressure on Pakistan. India also declared that it will participate only if Pakistan took steps to tackle terrorism.

7. The 2019 World Youth Chess Championship is being held in which city?

- A) Kolkata B) Mumbai ☒
- C) Pune D) New Delhi

- ✓ For the first time-ever India is hosting the prestigious World Youth chess championship, which is scheduled to be held in Mumbai from October 1 to 13. The world's best talent in U-14, U-16 and U-18 categories will be on view.
- ✓ The tournament is being held under the aegis of the All India Chess Federation and organised by the All Marathi Chess Association. Players from 62 countries have confirmed their participation, including Russia, USA, France, Italy and Azerbaijan.

8. The researchers at which IIT have developed method to make biofuel with sugar and salt?

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

- ✓ By using sugar, sulphuric acid and salt, the researchers of IIT Hyderabad have developed a cheap and efficient nano-carbon catalyst to help in the production of biofuel precursors.
- ✓ The catalyst showed better efficiency and selectivity than the commercially available variants to produce the desired C15 oxygenated hydrocarbon — a precursor to diesel and jet fuel. This development is important as States like Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh / Telangana produce a large amount of corncob waste in the country.
- ✓ This can be converted into valuable fuel instead of being burnt. The nano-carbon catalyst developed by the institute can enable conversion into biofuel (fuel from biological sources rather than fossil fuels) and provide an additional earning opportunity for the corn farmer, besides being a sustainable energy source.

9. Which Indian sprinter has won gold in men's 300m at the 2019 Athleticky Mitink Reiter event in Czech Republic?

- A) Kunhu Muhammed B) Mohan Kumar Raja
- C) Mohammad Anas ☒ D) Nirmal Tom

- ✓ Top Indian sprinters Hima Das and Mohammad Anas have won a gold each in women's and men's 300m races respectively at the 2019 Athleticky Mitink Reiter event in Czech Republic. This was Hima's 6th gold in 2019 in European races since July 2.
- ✓ On the other hand, Mohammad Anas won the gold clocking 32.41 seconds. India's Nirmal Tom clinched a bronze in the same event by clocking a timing of 33.03 seconds.
- ✓ National record holder Anas has already qualified for 400m event for the World Championships to be held in Doha in September–October while Hima is yet to achieve it.

10. On which date, the Communal Harmony Day is celebrated in India?

A) August 21

B) August 22

C) August 20 ☒

D) August 23

- ✓ In India, the Sadbhavana Diwas (or Communal Harmony Day) is celebrated every year on August 20 to commemorate birth anniversary of late former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
 - ✓ On the occasion of 75th birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi, Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi along with Rahul Gandhi inaugurated an exhibition titled 'Memories and Archives of Rajiv Gandhi' on 20th August 2019.
 - ✓ Rajiv Gandhi served as the 6th Prime Minister of India from 1984 to 1989. He took office after the 1984 assassination of his mother, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, to become the youngest Indian Prime Minister at the age of 40.
 - ✓ In 21st May 1991, Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated by a Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) suicide bomber during an election rally in Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu. His death anniversary is also observed as National Anti – Terrorism Day.
-

1. The Cabinet Secretary of India works under the direct charge of ____?

A) Ministry of Corporate Affairs

B) Prime Minister ☒

C) Ministry of Home Affairs

D) Ministry of Finance

- ✓ Rajiv Gauba, a 1982 batch IAS officer of Jharkhand cadre, has been appointed as the new Cabinet Secretary for two years. His tenure will be effective from August 30, 2019 & will succeed Pradeep Kumar Sinha.
- ✓ Gauba is currently posted as Home Affairs secretary. The Cabinet Secretary is the topmost executive official and senior-most civil servant of the Government of India. He works under the direct charge of the PM.

2. Who is the newly appointed Defence Secretary of India?

A) Ajay Kumar ☒

B) Brij Kumar Agarwal

C) Subash Chandra

D) Rajiv Gauba

- ✓ Ajay Kumar, a 1985 batch IAS officer of Kerala cadre, has been appointed as the new Defence Secretary. He succeeded Sanjay Mitra.
- ✓ Apart from him, Brij Kumar Agarwal has been appointed as Secretary to the Lokpal and Subash Chandra as Secretary of Department of Defence Production. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by PM Narendra Modi, approved the appointments.

3. The National Conference on Varmam Science has recently held in which city?

A) Chennai ☒

B) New Delhi

C) Kochi

D) Jaipur

- ✓ On 22nd August 2019, Union Minister of State for AYUSH Shripad Yesso Naik inaugurated the two-day National Conference on Varmam Science in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

- ✓ 'Varmam' is a constituent of the Siddha system of medicine that also doubles up as a martial art. The national conference is being organized by the National Institute of Siddha in Chennai.

4. 'Op – Blue Freedom' is associated to which sports?

A) Water skiing

B) Water polo

C) Parasailing

D) Scuba diving ☒

- ✓ In a first-of-its-kind initiative in Asia, 8 armed forces veterans have initiated a high-end adventure sports survival training and self-defence mission at a pan India level titled 'Op-Blue Freedom' as a part of their parent project — Special Forces Adventures (SFA).
- ✓ The SFA is led by Major (retd) Vivek Jacob and has veterans from the Indian Army Para Commandos and the Naval Marine Commandos (MARCOS). 'Op-Blue Freedom' is a nation-wide adaptive scuba diving programme for people with disabilities as well as able-bodied persons.
- ✓ The purpose of the program is to train adventure enthusiasts in Special Forces. Recently, 'Op-Blue Freedom' is in news because the Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju and football legend Bhaichung Bhutia have flagged off dive for Delhi-NCT leg for the Op-Blue Freedom.

5. How many island nations are members of Forum for India – Pacific Islands cooperation (FIPIC)?

A) 20

B) 14 ☒

C) 16

D) 8

- ✓ The Union Tourism Ministry has decided to offer e-Tourist Visa fee based on tourist footfall to attract foreign travellers from over 160 countries to India.
- ✓ The ministry has proposed to introduce e-visa fee for short duration of 30 days during peak tourism season – from July to March — at a charge of \$25. However, the e-visa fee during the lean period — from April to June – is to be kept at \$10.
- ✓ The Ministry also introduced a new 5 year e-tourist visa the fee of which will be \$80 and the fees of one year e-visa would be \$40.

- ✓ Though, there will be no visa fee for tourists from 14 Pacific Island nations belonging to Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) — Fiji, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue Island, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu — and Myanmar, Argentina, Indonesia, Jamaica, Mauritius, Seychelles, South Africa and Uruguay.

- ✓ Both the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs have given approval to the flexible e-tourist visa regime.

6. Which Indian tech company has partnered with IISc on robotics and 5G?

- A) Wipro ☒ B) Infosys
C) Tata D) Reliance

- ✓ Wipro has partnered with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) to conduct advanced applied research in autonomous systems – robotics and 5G.
- ✓ Both the organizations have jointly set up a hybrid industry-academia collaboration unit – Wipro IISc Research and Innovation Network (WIRIN) – which will drive idea discovery, research and innovation in technology and product design.
- ✓ Both will focus on the research and development of cutting-edge technologies in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning, Visual Computing, Human Computer Interaction (HCI) and Vehicle-to-everything communication (V2X). The insights from the research will be leveraged by Wipro for its customers and the industry ecosystem.

7. Which state has acquired first position in the SARAL – 'State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index'?

- A) Andhra Pradesh B) Gujarat
C) Karnataka ☒ D) Telangana

- ✓ The State of Karnataka has got the first position in the SARAL – 'State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index' that evaluates Indian states based on their attractiveness for rooftop development.

- ✓ The index has recently launched by the Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy (IC), RK Singh. Telangana has acquired the 2nd position, followed by Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh.

- ✓ The index has been designed collaboratively by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF), Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and Ernst & Young (EY).

8. 'Sea Tinkle' in Chennai beach, which is in news recently, is caused by which algae?

- A) Cryptomonad B) Diatom
C) Noctiluca ☒ D) Wakame

- ✓ On 18th August 2019, visitors to the Injambakkam beach in Chennai and Besant Nagar's Eliot's Beach noticed a blue shimmer on the waves i.e. popularly known as 'Sea Tinkle'. According to marine experts, the Noctiluca algae were behind this blue glow phenomenon.
- ✓ The algae exhibit the phenomenon of bioluminescence (or biologically produce light when disturbed). The light is produced by a chemical reaction in the presence of oxygen involving an enzyme called "luciferase".
- ✓ Bioluminescence has been observed in fireflies, a few beetles and in marine creatures such as Anglerfish and copepods. Though the sight that algae produce is beautiful, their arrival may not be good news for marine health.
- ✓ Noctiluca are known to be voracious predators of planktonic organisms (diatoms) that leads to disruption of the marine food chain. Such blooms have been reported annually in the Northern Arabian Sea since the early 2000s. Goa, Mumbai and the backwaters of Kerala have witnessed these algal blooms.

9. Which international organisation has released a report titled 'Quality Unknown: The Invisible Water Crisis'?

- A) ADB B) UNCTAD
C) UNGA D) World Bank ☒

- ✓ The World Bank (WB) has recently released a report titled 'Quality Unknown: The Invisible Water Crisis' to address human and environmental harm.
- ✓ The study evaluated how a combination of bacteria, sewage, chemicals and plastics suck oxygen from water supplies and transform water into poison for people and ecosystems.
- ✓ Both rich and poor countries are at risk from poor water quality as a result of pollution. The researchers noted that a key contributor to poor water quality is nitrogen, which, applied as fertiliser in agriculture, eventually enters rivers, lakes and oceans where it transforms into nitrates.
- ✓ Early exposure of children to nitrates affects their growth and brain development, impacting their health and adult earning potential.
- ✓ The report also found that when Biological Oxygen Demand (an indicator of overall water quality) crosses a certain threshold, GDP growth in areas affected by the problem drops by as much as a third because of the impact on health, agriculture and ecosystems.
- ✓ Around 95% of these seizures were recorded in countries that are home to tigers. The study was launched to coincide with discussions around the trade in tigers and other big cat species at the 18th meeting of governments that are parties to the Convention in International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, or CITES. It must be noted here that India has the world's largest wild tiger population. The headquarters of TRAFFIC is located in Cambridge, United Kingdom (UK).

10. Where is the headquarters of the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network "TRAFFIC"?

- A) France B) Germany
C) United States D) United Kingdom ☒

- ✓ The Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network "TRAFFIC" has recently revealed a new report titled 'Skin and Bones Unresolved: An Analysis of Tiger Seizures from 2000–2018'.
- ✓ As per new TRAFFIC analysis, India topped in the trafficking of tigers and tiger body parts over 19 years since 2000. Apart from tiger skin and bones, live tigers are also traded illegally in a number of cases.
- ✓ It accounted for 40.5% of total incidents (463) and 26.5% of tigers seized (626). Overall, the analysis estimated that 2,359 tigers and tiger body parts were seized during the period across 32 countries and territories globally, resulting from 1,142 seizure incidents.

1. Which country has launched rocket carrying life-sized robot "Fedor" to International Space Station (ISS)?

A) United States

B) China

C) France

D) Russia ☒

- ✓ Russia has launched a rocket carrying life-sized robot to the International Space Station (ISS) from Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. It is set to arrive at the station on Saturday.
- ✓ The robot, named Fedor (Experimental Demonstration Object Research), is the first ever sent into space by Russia. Fedor stands some one metre and 80 centimetres tall (5 feet 11") and weighs 160 kgs. In order to test a new emergency rescue system, the robot was the Soyuz rocket's only passenger.
- ✓ During its 10 days at the ISS, Fedor will learn new skills such as connecting and disconnecting electric cables using standard items from a screwdriver and a spanner to a fire extinguisher.

2. Who is the author of the book "Big Billion Startup: The Untold Flipkart Story"?

A) Mihir Dalal ☒

B) Prahalad Joshi

C) Raj Kumar Singh

D) Ashwini Kumar

- ✓ The book titled "Big Billion Startup: The Untold Flipkart Story" has been authored by Mihir Dalal. It will recount the story of how the IIT graduates Sachin and Binny Bansal built Flipkart & how internet entrepreneurship was made a desirable occupation.

3. On which date, the World Senior Citizen's Day is celebrated?

A) August 21 ☒

B) August 19

C) August 20

D) August 22

- ✓ The World Senior Citizen's Day (WSCD) is celebrated every year on 21st of August to raise awareness about the issues that affect older adults.
- ✓ The day also recognizes & acknowledges the contributions of older people to the society. It provides an opportunity to show our appreciation for their

dedication, accomplishments, and services they give throughout their lives.

4. Which Indian Professor has been conferred the Pushkin Medal 2019?

A) Bishnupriya Dutt

B) Meeta Narain ☒

C) Anindya Sinha

D) Aijaz Ahmad

- ✓ Prof. Meeta Narain of Jawaharlal Nehru University has been conferred the prestigious 'Pushkin Medal – 2019' for her contribution to Russian studies abroad. Narain has contributed towards re-writing of Russian studies textbooks for graduate students after the dissolution of the Soviet Union.
 - ✓ Her work gave a contemporary flavour to the textbooks, which are now being used in departments of Russian language studies at various universities of India, in many former Soviet nation institutes, Europe, the US and other countries.
 - ✓ The Pushkin Medal is the highest honour given to an Indian scholar by the Russian government in recognition of outstanding contributions to the promotion of the Russian language and culture. It was instituted in the name of famous Russian author and poet Alexander S. Pushkin.
5. The Telangana government has signed pact with which tech company for 'Digital Telangana'?
- A) Microsoft
- B) Google ☒
- C) Wipro
- D) Infosys
- ✓ The Telangana Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Google India for 'Digital Telangana'. The MoU will improve and get more local language content online using Google's digital publishing tool "Navlekha".
 - ✓ As part of the MoU, Google will work with the state government to help digitize the government's content in Telugu to make it easier for the common man to get access to all the information and services on government sites in their local languages.

- ✓ Apart from this, Google will also collaborate with the government to support its digital literacy vision and aid in the overall digitization agenda of the state.

6. Which company has recently bagged title sponsorship rights for Indian cricket team for 5 years?

- A) Paytm ☒ B) Vodafone
C) PhonePe D) Airtel

- ✓ The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has extended title sponsor rights to Paytm for the Indian cricket team's international and domestic matches with a winning bid of Rs 3.80 crore per match for the 4 year cycle commencing October, 2019.

- ✓ Over the next 4 years, India is set to host at least 86 international men's matches in bilateral series & BCCI is thrilled with the 57% hike in sponsorship amount. Besides men's international cricket, BCCI offers extension of sponsorship rights to domestic cricket and women's international games at no additional cost.

7. The first-ever International Day for Victims of Acts of Violence based on Religion or Belief is observed on which date?

- A) August 21 B) August 19
C) August 20 D) August 22 ☒

- ✓ The first-ever International Day for Victims of Acts of Violence based on Religion or Belief is observed on 22nd of August 2019 to honour the victims and survivors of heinous acts who often remain forgotten. This is a great opportunity to raise awareness about religious intolerance.

8. Which union ministry has organized a 'San - Sadhan' Hackathon for Divyangjan accessible toilets?

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

- ✓ Under the Swachh Bharat Mission, the Government of India has launched its latest initiative called the 'San-Sadhan' Hackathon – for Divyangjan accessible toilets. The aim of the initiative is to ease lives of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) by making toilets smarter, more accessible, and easier to use.

- ✓ In this hackathon, the government is looking for smart, scalable and innovative solutions for economical toilets for individual and community use in rural and urban contexts. The Hackathon is inviting researchers, start-ups, student innovators, technology enthusiasts, and industry experts to participate.

- ✓ The last date to apply for participating in the Hackathon is August 28. The shortlisted applicants will work to develop their prototype during the two-day Hackathon scheduled to be held in the month of September in New Delhi.

- ✓ The initiative is being organized jointly by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, in collaboration with Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and 91springboard.

9. Which state has ranked 1st in free medicine scheme implementation under the National Health Mission?

- A) Rajasthan ☒ B) MP
C) UP D) Jharkhand

- ✓ The flagship scheme of Rajasthan government has topped the 16-state chart detailing implementation of the free medicine scheme i.e. run under the National Health Mission (NHM).

- ✓ The NHM assessed the performance of the states on the basis of effective implementation of Drugs and Vaccine Distribution Management System (DVDMS), stock of essential drugs, value of drugs about to expire along with other such parameters.

- ✓ According to an NHM letter, the DVDMSA coverage in Rajasthan is 77.26% and proportion of online drug distribution counters – 96.03%. The expired quantity proportion viz. breakage, wastage and loss are just 7.43%.

10. Which Union Ministry has recently declared ocean energy as green power?

A) Ministry of Jal Shakti

B) Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries

C) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy ☒

D) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

- ✓ The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has approved a proposal to declare ocean energy as a renewable source of energy. The decision is expected to boost the use of ocean energy.
 - ✓ The MNRE has clarified to all the stakeholders that energy produced using various forms of ocean energy such as tidal, wave, ocean thermal energy conversion among others shall be considered as renewable energy and shall be eligible for meeting the non-solar Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO).
 - ✓ Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) has a theoretical potential of 180,000 MW in India subject to suitable technological evolution.
 - ✓ The total identified potential of tidal energy in India is around 12,455 MW whereas the total theoretical potential of wave energy along the country's coast is estimated at 40,000 MW.
-