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THIRD WEEK

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15 NOVEMBER - 21 NOVEMBER



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1. Which state government has launched e-Ganna App for sugarcane farmers?

- A) Chhattisgarh B) Uttar Pradesh ☒
C) Maharashtra D) Gujarat

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh government has launched a dedicated web portal and a mobile application, e-Ganna App, for sugarcane farmers of the state.
- ✓ The portal and the App will ensure transparency in the process of getting slips, and facilitate sugarcane supply by farmers to mills and check irregularities.

2. Which country is the focus country at the 39th India International Trade Fair (IITF)?

- A) South Africa B) South Korea ☒
C) Vietnam D) Malaysia

- ✓ 39th India International Trade Fair 2019 begins in New Delhi. The theme for the fair is 'Ease of Doing Business' inspired by India's unique achievement of rising to 63rd rank on the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index from 142nd rank in the year 2014.
- ✓ The fair will be inaugurated by Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Nitin Gadkari. This year the status of 'Partner Country' has been accorded to 'The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan' and 'The Republic of Korea' will be the 'Focus Country'. Bihar and Jharkhand will be the focus states in this edition of the fair.

3. Which Indian sprinter has been listed in the TIME 100 Next?

- A) Dutee Chand ☒ B) Hima Das
C) Sarita Gayakwad D) Sathi Geetha

- ✓ Dutee Chand, the Indian sprinter has been listed in the TIME 100 Next of TIME magazine.
- ✓ It highlights 100 rising stars who are shaping the future of entertainment, business, sports, politics, health, science etc. Dutee is the 1st Indian sprinter to win the 100m at the World University Games.

4. The Good Air Summit (GAS-2019) has been organized under which theme?

- A) Making India Responsible
B) Making India Breathe ☒
C) Making India Clean
D) Making India Green

- ✓ In New Delhi, the Good Air Summit (GAS-2019) has been organized by the Integrated Health and Wellbeing Council under the theme 'Making India Breathe'. Over 2,000 students took the pledge to make environment greener and pollution-free at the summit.
- ✓ The purpose of the summit is to make the young children and citizens take responsibility for Good Air and bringing changes in the behaviour of individuals towards keeping society clean of pollutions.
- ✓ Here, the students joined the nationwide drive 'Good Air Movement' that aims to cover Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Ahmedabad to Aizawl.

5. The UN Women has proposed to partner with which state's gender park?

- A) Chhattisgarh B) Kerala ☒
C) Maharashtra D) Gujarat

- ✓ With an aim to take forward projects and campaigns aimed at securing gender parity in South Asia, UN Women has proposed to partner with Kerala's gender park.
- ✓ Three key areas of co-operation of the partnership will be setting up of the gender data centre at The Gender Park, Kozhikode, holding events during the 64th session of Commission on Status of Women (CSW64) in March 2020 and 75th session of UN General Assembly in September 2020 and launch of a focused campaign called "16 Days of Activism in Kerala" from 25th November to 10th December, 2019.

6. The 7th edition of IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum 2019 was held in which city?

- A) Beijing B) Colombo

C) Islamabad ☒

D) New Delhi

- ✓ The 7th International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Asia Regional Conservation Forum, Asia's one of most important nature conservation events – Started on 14 Nov Under the theme of "Greening Asia for Nature and People", the forum will focus on themes related to nature-based solutions to address societal challenges.
- ✓ The event happens once in every four years and witnessed huge participation of delegates from governments, NGO, research and academic institutions from South, East and Southeast Asian.
- ✓ Asia accounts for 60% of the world's current population. According to World Bank's report in 2018, of the 783 million extremely poor who live below the poverty line, 33% live in South Asia and 9% live in East Asia and the Pacific.
- ✓ Discussions from the Asia Regional Conservation Forum will help shape conservation action for the next decade, as it will feed into the IUCN World Conservation Congress, which will be held in Marseille, France in June 2020.

7. India has partnered with which countries to explore an alternative to SWIFT?

- A) South Africa & Maldives B) Bangladesh & China
C) Russia & China ☒ D) France & Japan

- ✓ India, Russia, and China have partnered to explore an alternative to the US dominated Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) payment mechanism. The move aims to smoothen trade with countries that face American sanctions.
- ✓ The countries have decided to link Russia's financial messaging system of the Bank of Russia (SPFS) with the Chinese cross-border interbank payment system Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (CIPS).
- ✓ The new payment system will work as a gateway model when messages on payments are transcoded in accordance with a certain financial system.

8. Which tech giant has introduced 'Project Zero' in India to remove counterfeit products?

A) Paytm B) Amazon ☒ C) Flipkart D) Indiamart

- ✓ E-commerce major Amazon has rolled out 'Project Zero' in India that will provide brands with additional tools to identify and remove counterfeits from its platform.
- ✓ The Project Zero features three tools viz. 'automated protections', 'self-service counterfeit removal tool' and 'product serialization'. The brands will have to sign up for the initiative to access the tools.

9. Who led Indian delegation at the 8th Session of Governing Body of Seed Treaty in Rome?

- A) Parsottambhai Rupala B) Harsh Vardhan
C) Narendra Singh Tomar ☒ D) Krishna Raj

- ✓ India attended the 8th session of the International Treaty of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) at Rome, Italy. Agriculture Minister Shri Narendra Tomar attended the session representing India. Around 146 countries participated in the session.
- ✓ The Treaty is in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity. International organizations such as FAO, UN were also part of the session.

10. Which country has become the first South Asian nation to criminalize offences related to match-fixing & sports betting?

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

- ✓ Sri Lanka has become 1st South Asian nation to criminalise several offences related to match-fixing. The move comes after Sri Lankan parliament passed of a bill related to it labelled as "Prevention of Offences Related to Sports". Sri Lanka's Sports Ministry worked closely with International Cricket Council's (ICC) Anti-Corruption Unit during the process of drafting bill.
- ✓ The newest legislation covers all sports. As per it if a person is found guilty of committing an offence related to corruption in sports, then he may find himself jailed for a term up to 10 years and will also be required to pay other fines.

1. Which country's President has been invited as the chief guest at the India's 2020 Republic Day?
- A) Italy B) Brazil ☒
C) Portugal D) New Zealand
- ✓ Jair Bolsonaro, Brazilian President accepted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's invitation to become the chief guest at India's Republic Day celebrations 2020. Modi is in Brazil to attend the 11th BRICS Summit.
2. Which Indian personality has been named an honorary trustee of "The Metropolitan Museum of Art"?
- A) Nita Ambani ☒ B) Ratan Tata
C) Amitabh Bachchan D) Priyanka Chopra
- ✓ Chairperson of the Reliance Foundation, Nita Ambani has been named an honorary trustee of "The Metropolitan Museum of Art". This decision was taken due to her commitment to preserve and encourage Indian art and culture. She is the first Indian to be so honoured.
- ✓ In 2017, Nita Ambani received the prestigious Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Award from the President of India for the work of Reliance Foundation in the area of sports for development. In 2016, Forbes listed her as one of the 50 most powerful businesswomen in Asia. She is a member of the International Olympic Committee and is the first Indian woman to serve in that role.
3. Who has been appointed as new CMD of India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC)?
- A) Sudhir Kumar B) Payal Sharma
C) Kamala Vardhana Rao ☒ D) Kirti Patel
- ✓ India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) has appointed G Kamala Vardhana Rao as the new Chairman and Managing Director.
- ✓ Prior to this, an IAS officer 1990 batch from Kerala Cadre, was the Principal Secretary, Kerala government. He has also served as the Secretary of Kerala Tourism in 2014-15.
- ✓ He has also served multiple positions including Chairman of Indian Tobacco Board, Director of Fisheries Department, Director, Department of Tourism and Culture, Andhra Pradesh government.
4. The first-ever Indo-US tri-services 'Tiger Triumph' has started in which state?
- A) Madhya Pradesh B) Andhra Pradesh ☒
C) Himachal Pradesh D) Uttar Pradesh
- ✓ The 9-day humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) exercise code-named 'Tiger Triumph' has been started between armed forces of India and United States on the Eastern seaboard (at Visakhapatnam and Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh).
- ✓ The aim of the first-ever tri-services exercise is to develop inter-operability between the militaries of the two countries in HADR operations.
5. Which state government has decided to organize 2019 World Kabaddi Cup?
- A) Tamil Nadu B) Kerala
C) Tripura D) Punjab ☒
- ✓ The 2019 World Kabaddi Cup will take place from December 1 to 9 and will be organised by the Punjab government in Punjab.
- ✓ This year's tournament will be dedicated to the 550th birth anniversary of Sikh guru, Guru Nanak Dev Ji. Nine teams: India, USA, Australia, England, Sri Lanka, Kenya, New Zealand, Pakistan and Canada are expected to take part in the tournament.
6. Suranga Bawadi, which has been selected as the World Monument Watch List for 2020, is located in which state?
- A) Tamil Nadu B) Kerala
C) Tripura D) Karnataka ☒
- ✓ Suranga Bawadi in Bijapur, Karnataka was selected as the World Monument Watch List for 2020, by the New York-based non-governmental organisation.

- ✓ Suranga Bawadi was selected under the category of “Ancient Water System of the Deccan Plateau” along with 24 monuments across the world. It is one of the integral parts of the ancient Karez system of supplying water through subterranean tunnels. It was built in the 16th century of Adil Shahi-I in Vijayapura.

7. India is hosting the 19th Council of Heads of Government (CHG) of SCO 2020 in which city?

- A) Chennai B) New Delhi ☒
C) Pune D) Bengaluru

- ✓ India will host the 19th council of heads of government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation 2020. The first such high-level meeting of the 8-member grouping to be organised by New Delhi after its admission into the grouping in 2017.

- ✓ The SCO is a China-led eight-member economic and security bloc in which India and Pakistan were admitted as full members in 2017. Its founding members included China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The latest Summit of heads of government was held in Tashkent in November 2019.

8. On which date, the 2019 edition of World Kindness Day is celebrated?

- A) Nov.13 ☒ B) Nov.14 C) Nov.12 D) Nov.13

- ✓ The World Kindness Day is celebrated every year on 13th of November to highlight good deeds in the community focusing on the positive power and the common thread of kindness which binds us.
- ✓ The day was introduced in 1998 by the World Kindness Movement, a coalition of nations' kindness NGOs. The theme for 2019 edition is “Empathy, encouraging people across the globe to better understand “the pains of others” and touch their lives “positively”.

9. Which Indian scholar has won the 2019 BRICS-Young Innovator Prize?

- A) Sunil Rajput B) Ravi Prakash ☒
C) Laxmi Jain D) Deepankar Kumar

- ✓ Ravi Prakash, an Indian PhD scholar has won the BRICS-Young Innovator Prize for inventing an affordable indigenous milk chilling unit for smaller and marginal rural dairy farmers.

- ✓ Prakash, PhD scholar of ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Bangalore, was a part of a 21-member delegation sent to Brazil by the Department of Science and Technology for the 4th BRICS-Young Scientist Forum (YSF), 2019. The theme for 4th BRICS-YSF was “Cybersecurity and Bio-economy”.

10. The 2019 International Lavi fair was held in which district of Himachal Pradesh?

- A) Shimla ☒ B) Hamirpur
C) Kangra D) Kullu

- ✓ International Lavi fair being organised in Shimla district's Rampur from November 11 to 14, 2019. The fair dates back to the 17th century when Raja Kehari Singh of Rampur Bushahr state signed a treaty to promote trade between Tibet and Bushahr.

- ✓ Ahead of the fair, an exhibition of horses was organized. The main attraction is the sale and purchase of Chamurthi horses — an endangered species known as the “Ship of the cold desert”.

1. What is the India's rank at the 2019 Global Bribery Risk Index?

- A) 78th ☒ B) 68th C) 75th D) 65th

- ✓ India has been ranked 78th among 178 nations in the 2019 Global Bribery Risk Index, which was released by Trace Bribery Risk Matrix. The Matrix evaluates countries under four parameters which are business interaction with the government, anti-bribery deterrence, transparency and civil society oversight.
- ✓ TRACE is a US based organisation which provides ranking to various countries in terms of the risk of bribery companies' face in doing business in those countries.

2. Which state government has launched the 'Nadu-Nedu' programme?

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

- ✓ The Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jaganmohan Reddy has launched the 'Nadu-Nedu' programme to introduce English medium from classes 1 – 6 in state-run schools.
- ✓ The scheme will be implemented in 15,715 schools in the first phase. It will cover all schools in three years' time with a budget of Rs 12,000 crores.

3. Vashishtha Narayan Singh, who passed away recently, was the noted personality of which field?

- A) Maths ☒ B) Biology
C) Chemistry D) Physics

- ✓ Renowned mathematician Vashishtha Narayan Singh passed away in Patna on 14th November 2019.

4. The first ever international buyer seller meet on agriculture and horticulture produce has started in which state?

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

- ✓ The first-ever international buyer-seller meet on Agriculture & Horticulture produce was held in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, on 14–15 November 2019.

- ✓ It was organized by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

- ✓ The aim of the meet is to promote the export of agricultural products. It also aims to facilitate market linkages for agri-exports from the North Eastern Region, especially Arunachal Pradesh, APEDA, and Department of Agriculture & Horticulture, Government of Arunachal Pradesh.

5. The Golden Leaf Awards are awarded for which sector?

- A) Tobacco ☒ B) Coffee C) Tea D) Jute

- ✓ The Tobacco Board of India (Guntur) has been awarded the Golden Leaf Award at Tab Expo 2019 event in Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- ✓ The award was given in the most impressive public service initiative category for the year 2019 for its efforts to initiate various sustainability (green) initiatives in Flue-Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco cultivation in India.
- ✓ The Golden Leaf Awards are created to recognise professional excellence and dedication in the tobacco industry by an international magazine Tobacco Reporter.

6. Who has been named FIFA's Chief of global football development?

- A) Robert Jerni B) Arsene Wenger ☒
C) Harendra Singh D) Igor Stimac

- ✓ Veteran coach Arsene Wenger has been named FIFA's Chief of global football development. He would be responsible for the growth of the football game around the world and would also be the leading authority on technical matters, including potential changes to the sport's laws.

7. On which date, the 2019 edition of National Press Day is celebrated in India?

- A) Nov.16 ☒ B) Nov.14 C) Nov.12 D) Nov.13

- ✓ The National Press Day (NPD) is celebrated every year on 16th of November as symbolic of free and responsible press in India. This was the day on which the Press Council of India (PCI) started functioning as a moral watchdog.

8. Which union ministry has decided to launch Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh (BPKK)?

- A) Ministry of Finance
B) Ministry of Rural Development
C) Ministry of Women and Child Development ☒
D) Ministry of HRD

- ✓ The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development and Textiles has decided to launch Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh (BPKK) on 18th November 2019 in New Delhi.
- ✓ The BPKK is the repository of diverse crops across 128 agro-climatic zones in India for better nutritional outcomes.

9. Which Indian movie bagged the Best Director award at the 2019 Asian Film Festival Barcelona?

- A) Super 30 B) War
C) Bhonsle ☒ D) Panipat

- ✓ Manoj Bajpayee–starrer and critically acclaimed movie “Bhonsle”, directed by Devashish Makhija, has won the prestigious awards at the 2019 Asian Film Festival Barcelona. The film bagged two awards in the ‘Best Screenplay’ and ‘Best Director’ categories at the festival.
- ✓ The movie revolves around a police constable, who tries to help in the struggles of migrants and their battles with the local politicians. It also addresses the concerns of various ethnic groups and highlights the issues that they face in order to survive in a city like Mumbai, away from their home.

10. Which movie bagged the Golden Royal Bengal Tiger Award for the Best Film at the 25th Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF)?

- A) Aga’s House B) The Painted Bird
C) Run Kalyani D) The Weeping Woman ☒

- ✓ Spanish movie ‘The Weeping Woman’ (La llorona) bagged the Golden Royal Bengal Tiger Award for the Best Film in International Competition of the 25th Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF).

1. The 6th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM – Plus) was held in which city?

- A) Colombo B) New Delhi
C) Hanoi D) Bangkok ☒

- ✓ The 6th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM – Plus) has recently held in Bangkok, Thailand on 18th November 2019. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh along with 17 other Defence Ministers of ADMM-Plus countries attended the meeting. Its purpose was to seek collaborations in terms of security with Ministry of Defence of countries outside the region.

2. Who has been sworn-in as new President of Sri Lanka?

- A) Gotabaya Rajapaksa ☒ B) Priyantha Sirisena
C) Namal Rajapaksa D) Karu Jayasuriya

- ✓ Gotabaya Rajapaksa, the controversial wartime defence secretary, has been sworn-in as 7th Executive President of Sri Lanka at the Ruwanweli Seya in Anuradhapura on 18th November 2019.

- ✓ He succeeded President Maithripala Sirisena for a five year term. Before the ceremony, the newly elected president worshipped at the Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi, a sacred fig tree in the Mahamewna Gardens and Ruwanweli Seya.

3. Which Indian boxer has been elected as a member of the first-ever international boxing body (AIBA) athletes' commission?

- A) Shiva Thapa B) Laishram Sarita Devi ☒
C) Mary Kom D) Vijender Singh

- ✓ Indian boxer, Laishram Sarita Devi of Manipur has been elected unopposed as a member of the first-ever international boxing body (AIBA) athletes' commission.

- ✓ She was inspired by Muhammad Ali's achievements, and turned professional in boxing in the year 2000. She is DSP in Manipur Police.

- ✓ The election of the Athletes Commission members was organized during AIBA Men and Women World Boxing Championships 2019 in Russia.

- ✓ Boxers from all over the world voted for new members – one per continent, except Europe which has two representatives.

4. Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde, who has been sworn-in as the new Chief Justice of India (CJI), is a former Chief Justice of which High Court?

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

- ✓ Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde, a former Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court, has recently administered oath as the 47th Chief Justice of India (CJI) by President Ram Nath Kovind at the Durbar Hall of Rashtrapati Bhawan.

- ✓ He will have a tenure of over 17 months as the CJI and is due to retire on April 23, 2021. Justice Bobde has decided several key cases and was part of the recent historic Ayodhya verdict.

- ✓ He also headed a 3-member in-house committee which gave a clean chit to CJI Gogoi on a sexual harassment complaint against him by a former apex court staffer. Hailing from a family of lawyers from Maharashtra, he is the son of eminent senior advocate Arvind Shrinivas Bobde.

5. The Andhra Pradesh government has selected which IIM to help curb corruption in the state administration?

- A) IIM Calcutta B) IIM Indore
C) IIM Ahmedabad ☒ D) IIM Bangalore

- ✓ The Andhra Pradesh government has selected IIM Ahmedabad to help curb corruption in the state administration.

- ✓ The institute would study the structural issues in the government departments in relation to corruption and come out with measures to tackle them.

- ✓ The focus would be on government departments that have earned alleged notoriety for corruption. Based on the IIM-A report, it was expected that the government may suitably amend the PC Act for a complete crackdown on corruption.

6. Which country has become the first country in the world to introduce WHO approved typhoid vaccine?

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

- ✓ Pakistan has become the first country in the world to introduce WHO-approved Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine (TCV) into its routine immunisation programme through a campaign mode in Sindh.
- ✓ It's an effort to combat a drug-resistant strain of the potentially fatal disease in the Sindh province. The two-week campaign has been launched with the support of Geneva-based Gavi vaccine alliance.
- ✓ The TCV is a 1-dose vaccine, injected intramuscularly, that is lower in cost and has higher efficacy. It is expected to provide long lasting immunity in adults, children and infants older than 9 months of age.
- ✓ Typhoid is a highly contagious disease that spreads quickly when people live in crowded neighbourhoods with weak water and sanitation infrastructure.

7. Which state government has launched virtual classes' project?

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

- ✓ Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat has recently launched a project that will connect 500 government run secondary schools to virtual classrooms in the state.
- ✓ The virtual classes are attended through video conferences where students can meet the teacher on a real-time basis and ask questions. Approx 1.90 lakh students of these schools will also benefit from the project.

8. The 'SAANS' campaign has been launched by which union ministry?

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

D) Ministry of Jal Shakti

- ✓ Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Harsh Vardhan has launched a SAANS (Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully) campaign to curb pneumonia deaths among children.
- ✓ Under the campaign, a child suffering from pneumonia can be treated with pre-referral dose of anti-biotic amoxicillin by ASHA workers, and health and wellness centres can use pulse oximeter (device to monitor oxygen saturation) to identify low oxygen levels in the blood of a child, and if required, treat him by use of oxygen cylinders. The campaign will mobilize people to protect children from pneumonia.

9. Which state government has launched Mukhyamantri Septic Tank Safai Yojana?

- A) MP B) UP C) Rajasthan D) Delhi ☒

- ✓ Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has launched a scheme — Mukhyamantri Septic Tank Safai Yojana – to help people in waste management and to ensure the safety of sanitation workers.
- ✓ The government has plans to achieve three objectives with the scheme viz. a collection of waste from septic tanks in the colonies, ensuring safe disposal of the waste in sewage treatment plants, and deployment of trained staff with safety equipment for cleaning septic tanks.

10. The first-ever National Agrochemicals Congress was held in which city?

- A) Pune B) Bengaluru C) Chennai D) New Delhi ☒

- ✓ The first-ever National Agrochemicals Congress was held in Pusa, New Delhi. The meeting was inaugurated by Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar. The meeting was held from 13–16 November. The 4 day long meeting had the theme, "Country's Status on Various Fronts of Agrochemicals".
- ✓ The National Agrochemicals Congress focused on sustainable production to sustainable agri-food systems along with the climatic conditions. The plenary sessions included discussion on issues and concerns of Agrochemicals for sustainable farming.

1. Which state government has decided to create new new Foreign Cooperation department?

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

- ✓ The Haryana Government has decided to create a dedicated new department namely Department of 'Foreign Cooperation' to deal in formulation of country – wise strategies for promotion of investment, employment in the state, education and skill development and promotion of Haryanavi culture and welfare of Haryanavi diaspora.
- ✓ The Haryana Cabinet has also decided to revise the House Rent Allowance admissible to the Ministers from Rs 50,000 to Rs 80,000 plus Rs 20,000 to cover electricity and water charges that is totalling Rs 1 Lakh per month.

2. What is the India's rank in the 2019 IMD World Talent Ranking?

- A) 58th B) 63rd C) 62nd D) 59th ☒

- ✓ Due to low quality of life and expenditure on education, India has been ranked 59th on a global annual list of 63 countries in the 2019 IMD World Talent Ranking.
- ✓ The list was topped by Switzerland, followed by Denmark, Sweden and Austria. The ranking is based on the performance in three main categories — Investment & Development, Appeal and Readiness.

3. Which union ministry has launched Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh (BPKK)?

- A) Ministry of Women and Child Development ☒
B) Ministry of Food Processing Industries
C) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
D) Ministry of Rural Development

- ✓ The Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh (BPKK) has been launched by Union Ministry of Women and Child Development in partnership with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in New Delhi.

- ✓ The BPKK is a repository of diverse crops across 128 agro-climatic zones in India for better nutritional outcomes.

4. The bilateral maritime exercise "Roar of the Sea" has started between India & which country?

- A) Qatar ☒
B) Japan
C) Afghanistan
D) Saudi Arabia

- ✓ The first-ever joint naval exercise titled "Za'ir-Al-Bahr" (Roar of the Sea) has started between Qatar & India in Doha. The exercise would strengthen cooperation and increase interoperability between the two navies.

5. Which state Olympic Association has decided to launch "Grassroot Olympic – Mission Talent Hunt" to groom talent?

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

- ✓ The Assam Olympic Association (AOA) has decided to launch a new programme – "Grassroot Olympic – Mission Talent Hunt" – to identify the sports talent in the state and groom them.

- ✓ The AOA will organize sports events in five categories covering players from 10 years to 60 years of age in the state.

6. Who is the author of the book "The Daughter from a Wishing Tree Unusual Tales about Women in Mythology"?

- A) Sudha Chandran
B) Sudha Murty ☒
C) Kiran Bedi
D) Lakshmi Venu

- ✓ The book "The Daughter from a Wishing Tree Unusual Tales about Women in Mythology" has been authored by acclaimed author and Infosys Foundation chairman Sudha Murty. The book will tell numerous untold tales of women in mythology.

- ✓ It will talk about the magic spell that can make a dead person come alive, and the wishing tree that gives the wonderful gift of daughters. It will also answer some

very curiosity invoking questions like who the gods turn to for support when they are helpless.

7. On which date, the 2019 edition of National Epilepsy Day is observed?

- A) Nov.17 ☒ B) Nov.14 C) Nov.12 D) Nov.13

- ✓ In India, the National Epilepsy Day is observed every year on 17th of November to create awareness about epilepsy. Epilepsy is a chronic disorder of brain characterized by recurrent 'seizures' or 'fits'.
- ✓ The seizures are caused as a result of sudden, excessive electrical discharges in the neurons (brain cells). The condition can affect people at any age and each age group has unique concerns and problems.

8. What is the theme of the 2019 edition of World Toilet Day?

- A) Toilets and Nutrition
B) Follow the Flush
C) When Nature Calls
D) Leaving No One Behind ☒

- ✓ The World Toilet Day is observed every year on 19th of November to inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis. The 2018 theme is "Leaving No One Behind".

9. Which company has launched 60 Starlink satellites for cheaper global Internet?

- A) SpaceX ☒ B) Blue Origin
C) Virgin Galactic D) Boeing

- ✓ Elon Musk-run SpaceX has recently launched 60 "Starlink" satellites into Low-Earth Orbit from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida that will bring cheaper and reliable space-based internet access to the world. The "Starlink" satellites will be deployed at an altitude of 280 km to beam broadband Internet services.
- ✓ These satellites are part of the 2nd batch of SpaceXs' broadband Internet mega constellation. Enabled by a constellation of Low-Earth Orbit satellites, Starlink will

provide fast, reliable internet to populations with little or no connectivity, including those in rural communities and places where existing services are too expensive or unreliable.

10. Jayakwadi Dam is located on which river?

- A) Krishna B) Kaveri
C) Godavari ☒ D) Mahanadi

- ✓ The Jayakwadi Dam is located on Godavari River at the site of Jayakwadi village in Paithan taluka of Aurangabad district in Maharashtra.
- ✓ It is in news because the seismometer, piezometer, earth pressure cell, slope meter and several other key instruments installed at the dam have stopped functioning properly.
- ✓ The seismometer was installed at the Jayakwadi dam after the devastating earthquake in Killari in Latur district in 1993. This instrument is powerful as it has a range of 10,000 kms. In the past, it has recorded the epicentres of earthquakes in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Russia, Nepal, etc.

1. The Union government has banned which state-based insurgent group Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council?

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

✓ The Central government has recently banned Meghalaya based insurgent group Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council (HNLC) for its increased activities of violence and other subversive acts.

✓ The government also declared HNLC and its factions, wings and front organisations as “unlawful associations” by exercising powers conferred by the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act of 1967.

2. Which state government has decided to start Arundhati gold scheme by January 2020?

- A) Tamil Nadu
B) West Bengal
C) Assam ☒
D) Kerala

✓ The Assam government has decided to start Arundhati gold scheme by January 2020 for the registered newly married couples.

✓ Under the scheme, an amount of 30 thousand rupees will be given to the bride to purchase gold. The purpose of the scheme is to promote marriage registrations and prevent under-age marriages in the state.

✓ To get the benefit, the annual income of the bride and her father should not be more than 5 lakh rupees per year. As per the scheme, the minimum age of the bride and groom to be 18 and 21 years to avail the benefit.

3. Who has been named PETA India's Person of the Year for 2019?

- A) KS Panicker Radhakrishnan
B) Virat Kohli ☒
C) Shashi Tharoor
D) R Madhavan

✓ India captain Virat Kohli was, on November 20, named People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India's 'Person of the Year for 2019' for his animal advocacy efforts.

✓ A vegetarian, Kohli's efforts to improve conditions for animals include sending a letter on PETA India's behalf to officials calling for the release of Malti, an elephant used for rides at Amer Fort, who was reportedly violently beaten by eight men.

✓ The 31 year old also reportedly visited an animal shelter in Bengaluru to check on injured and formerly neglected dogs there, sending a message to his fans to adopt animals rather than buying them.

4. Who is the head of the panel on petrochemical investment?

- A) P Raghavendra Rao
B) S Chaudhary
C) Pradeep Sharma
D) Rajat Bhargava ☒

✓ The Union Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has appointed senior Andhra Pradesh bureaucrat Rajat Bhargava as head of a high level committee to suggest necessary policy initiatives for attracting more investments into the Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemical Investment Regions (PCPIR) in the country.

✓ This is the first time the Union government is seeking to amend the PCPIR Policy after it was introduced. As per the PCPIR Policy, the Centre approved four PCPIRs at Dahej (Gujarat) on the west coast and Visakhapatnam – Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh), Paradeep (Odisha) and Cuddalore – Nagapattinam (Tamil Nadu) on the east coast.

✓ The VK-PCPIR is the largest in the country spread over an area of 640 sq km along the Bay of Bengal coast.

5. Which military unit has been honoured with President's Colour award?

- A) Mahar Regiment
B) Rajputana Rifles
C) Indian Naval Academy ☒
D) The Garhwal Rifles

✓ President Ram Nath Kovind and Supreme Commander of Indian Armed Forces awarded President's Colour to Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala at Kochi, Kerala. The President's Colour is the highest honour bestowed upon a military unit.

- ✓ It was awarded to INA in recognition of the yeoman service rendered by the institution in training and shaping Indian Naval officers over the last 50 years at three different locations – Goa, Kochi and Ezhimala.

6. What is the theme of the 2019 edition of World Children's Day?

- A) Protect Child, Protect World
- B) Children of today, our keepers tomorrow ☒
- C) Children are taking over and turning the world blue
- D) Kids Take Over

- ✓ The World Children's Day is observed every year on 20th of November across the world to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare.
- ✓ The 2019 theme is "Children of today, our keepers tomorrow". This year is special as it marks 30 years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

7. Which city has become the India's first City to Install 'Third Umpire' RT-PCR Machines?

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

- ✓ The Kolkata Municipal Corporation has installed first of its kind high end Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) machines in India for quick detection of diseases like dengue, tuberculosis and swine flu.
- ✓ These machines are to serve as a Third Umpire in situations when medical reports and blood tests reveal contradictory results. The purpose of these machines is to give accurate DNA report on blood tests in order to ascertain the exact cause of illness. Through these machines, the tests will be conducted free of cost.

8. IRCTC has signed pact with which state tourism to market & run Golden Chariot train?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) West Bengal
- C) Karnataka ☒
- D) Kerala

- ✓ The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) to market and operate the Golden Chariot train.

- ✓ IRCTC is expected to carry out an internal refurbishment of the train and commence operations from March 2020. The new itineraries shall be a mix of history, culture, wildlife and nature.

- ✓ It is proposed to include Bandipur, Mysore, Halebid, Chikmagalur, Hampi, Bijapur and Goa in the itinerary. As per the pact, KSTDC will soon hand over the reins of the train to IRCTC.

9. NASA scientists have recently detected water vapor on which Jupiter's moon?

- A) Ganymede
- B) Europa ☒
- C) Callisto
- D) Io

- ✓ For the first time, NASA scientists have discovered the presence of water vapor above the surface of Jupiter's icy moon Europa using the W M Keck Observatory in Hawaii. The researchers detected 5,202 pounds of water releasing from Europa per second, which could fill an Olympic-size swimming pool within minutes.

10. Which country has declared that Israeli settlements on West Bank do not violate international laws?

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

- ✓ The United States has recently declared that Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian land "West Bank" do not violate international laws.

- ✓ The US declaration marks the rejection of a 2016 UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution that settlements on the West Bank are a "flagrant violation" of international law. It is also a rejection of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.