FreshersLive Current Affairs
Weekly Edition (17th June'19 - 23rd June'19)

WHO launched -AMR named "AWaRe"

Suman Rao from Rajasthan Crowned Miss India 2019

Zuzana Caputova - Slovakia's First Female President

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BANKING & FINANCE

J&K Bank is now under the purview of RTI Act and CVC guidelines

The Jammu and Kashmir Bank is now under the purview of Right to Information Act and Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) guidelines. The decision was taken by the Board of Directors of the Jammu and Kashmir Bank. The move will ensure greater transparency and accountability. The decision is after the removal of Parvez Ahmed as the Chairman of the J&K Bank. He was accused of alleged corruption, nepotism and favouritism.

Being a government-owned bank, the bank without any choice is to be under RTI. It has been registered under the companies act as a government company. The bank is expected to be brought under the RTI and CVC guidelines by the end of June.

J&K Bank:
Founded on: 1 October 1938
Headquarters: Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir
Interim Chairman: RK Chibber

J&K Bank was the first bank in the country to emerge as a state-owned bank.
CVC: Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is an apex Indian governmental body created in 1964 to address governmental corruption.
RTI: Right to Information Act provides for setting out the practical regime of the right to information for citizens and replaces the erstwhile Freedom of information Act, 2002. A citizen of India can go for filing an RTI at any point in time whenever he wants to seek any information regarding any government organization, or its any ongoing program, any public authority, etc.

PM Narendra Modi is likely to meet chief executives of Indian banks on 21 June

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to meet chief executives of Indian banks on June 21. He is to discuss a blueprint for the banking sector for the next five years in terms of growth and consolidation amid a slowing economy and a crisis in the shadow banking sector.

The Finance Ministry held discussions with bank chiefs on improving lending to micro, small and medium enterprises, agriculture and other productive sectors.
of the economy, and also on ease of doing business. The Ministry has also held discussions with banks on the ongoing crisis in non-banking financial sectors as NBFCs are facing liquidity crunch following the debt default by IL&FS.

The country's GDP growth has been slowed to 5.8% in the January-March 2019 quarter. It might drag down the full-year growth to a 5-year low of 6.8%. This has impacted the productive sectors of the economy.

RBI imposes Rs.1 crore penalty on HDFC for violating its norms

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed Rs.1 crore penalty on private sector lender HDFC Bank for violating know your customer (KYC) and anti-money laundering (AML) norms. The penalty was imposed on 18 June 2019.

Reason:
RBI had received a reference from customs authorities regarding submission of forged bill of entries (BoEs) by certain importers to the bank for remittance of foreign currency.

RBI's examination revealed the violations of the RBI directions on KYC/AML norms and on reporting of frauds. RBI said that the penalties are based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance. Also it is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the banks with their customers.

RBI said that a notice was issued to HDFC Bank on why monetary penalty should not be imposed for non-compliance with the directions. The fine was imposed on HDFC after considering HDFC Bank's reply, oral submissions made during the personal hearing and additional submission made. RBI imposed the penalty in exercise of powers vested to it under the provisions of Section 47A(1)(c) with Section 46(4)(i) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

RBI sets up a committee to review the current framework for the MSME sector

The Reserve Bank of India had set up an eight-member expert committee under the leadership of former chairman of SEBI, UK Sinha on 18 June 2019. The aim is to review the current framework for the MSME sector.

Members of the committee:
1) **Head:** UK Sinha, former chairman of SEBI  
**Other members:**  
2) Ram Mohan Mishra, development commissioner for MSME  
3) Pankaj Jain, Joint secretary at the department of financial services  
4) PK Gupta, SBI managing director  
5) Anup Bagchi, ICICI Bank executive director  
6) Professor Abhiman Das, IIM- Ahmedabad  
7) Sharad Sharma, Ispirit Foundation founder  
8) Bindu Ananth, Dvara Trust chairperson  

**Purpose of the committee:**  
The expert committee was set up to:  
- suggest a long-term solutions for the economic and financial sustainability of the micro, small and medium enterprises  
- to study the impact of the recent economic reforms on the sector  
- to identify the structural problems affecting its growth  
- to submit the report analysis by the end of June  
Upon reviewing the existing MSME focused policies and their impact, the committee will propose measures for leveraging technology in accelerating growth of the sector apart from recommending the global best practices.  
The setting up the expert committee was announced by **RBI at the December 2018 monetary policy announcement.**  

**Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd has appointed Naveen Uppal as the Chief Risk Officer**  

**Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd** has appointed **Naveen Uppal** as the **Chief Risk Officer (CRO).** The appointment complied with norms of **National Housing Bank (NHB),** the housing finance sector regulator. His appointment will be for a period of three years with effect from **June 17, 2019.** He will be directly reporting to the managing director and CEO of the company.  

**RBI's norm:**  
The appointment comes after the announcement made by **RBI** on 16 May which said that all **non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)** with assets of more than **5,000 crore** to appoint a chief risk officer (CRO). RBIs move was in the wake of ongoing rating downgrades of non-banks which has raised fears of another liquidity
crisis.

**Mr. Uppal:**
Uppal has over 23 years of experience in operations, audit and credit risk within the finance industry. He has been associated with Indiabulls Housing Finance for 12 years and presently heads risk and compliance. He was also associated with ICICI Bank as its zonal operations head

**Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd:**
- **Founded on:** January, 2000
- **Headquarters:** Gurgaon, India
- **Chairman and Founder:** Sameer Gehlaut
- **Vice Chairman and MD:** Gagan Banga

Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. (IBHFL) is **Indias second largest housing finance company**, regulated by the National Housing Bank (NHB).

It was rated the **13th largest consumer finance company** worldwide by **Forbes Global 2000 in June 2018.**
BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Randstad Employer Brand Research 2019 reported Amazon India most attractive employer brand

According to the Randstad Employer Brand Research (REBR) 2019 reported that Amazon India, the E-commerce giant, is the most attractive employer brand in the country. Amazon scored high on financial health, utilisation of latest technologies and a strong reputation.

The top 10 most-attractive employer brands in India for 2019 are:

1st-Amazon India
2nd-Microsoft India
3rd-Sony India
4th-Mercedes-Benz
5th-IBM
6th-Larsen & Toubro
7th-Nestle
8th-Infosys
9th-Samsung
10th-Dell

Findings of the report:

REBR covered 75% of the global economy with 32 participating countries and more than 2,00,000 respondents worldwide.

The research found that the top driver for the Indian workforce while choosing an employer are:

- salary
- employee benefits
- work-life balance
- job security

It also said that 55% of Indians prefer to work for a large multi-national corporation, only 9% preferred start-ups.

The preference for MNCs can be strongly attributed to job security, financial health and career progression opportunities that these organisations are able to offer their employees.
INTERNATIONAL

United States has allowed Iraq to import Iranian gas

The United States has allowed Iraq to import Iranian gas for its power grid for another three months by extending a waiver to sanctions. But the US insisted that Iraq finds an alternative measure for its need of electricity, including by harnessing gas energy and reducing flaring at oil production sites. Iraq has had several extensions to the waiver first granted in 2018 after Washington reimposed sanctions on Tehrans oil sector forbidding countries from purchasing Iranian energy. The extension was given during a phone call between Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. The United States continued to insist on diversifying energy imports away from Iran. U.S. energy giant General Electric won a multibillion-dollar contracts to rebuild Iraqs electricity system amid intense U.S. lobbying efforts. US reimposed sanctions on Irans oil industry in November, citing concerns about its nuclear programme and its meddling in the Middle East.

Pakistan failed to fulfill FATF standard to curb terror funding

Pakistan has failed to complete 25 of the 27 requirements demanded by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), international terror financing watchdog, to curb terror funding. FATF already warned Pakistan to take effective measures to combat money laundering and terrorist financing else the country will be placed on the grey" list or downgrade it to the black list. Pakistan has been on FATFs grey list since 2018. In June 2018, Pakistan committed to work with the FATF to strengthen its anti-money laundering and combating terrorist financing regimes. Because of this failure, multilateral lenders like the IMF, the World Bank and the EU may continue downgrading Pakistan, making its financial situation more precarious. FATF has also asked Pakistan to submit the details regarding the $7 million allocated to maintain schools, madrasas, clinics and ambulances originally operated by the terror groups.

Financial Action Task Force (FATF):
FATF is an inter-governmental body which devices policy and sets standards to
promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system. The body has **38 member countries**, including the US, UK, India, Japan, China and France, among others.

**Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed is appointed as Pakistan’s Director General of Inter-Services Intelligence**

Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed has been appointed as **Pakistan’s Director General of Inter-Services Intelligence (DG-ISI)**, a powerful spy agency. He assumed his office on **17th June 2019**. The Pakistan Army also announced a number of changes to postings of its top generals. Lt. Gen. Hameed was appointed as Director-General of the ISI in place of **Lieutenant General Asim Munir**. Munir was transferred and appointed as Corps Commander Gujranwala. Lt. Gen. Munir was appointed as ISI chief in October 2018 after the retirement of his predecessor Lt. Gen. Naveed Mukhtar.

**Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed:**
Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed is a **three-star rank general** in the Pakistan Army. He is currently the **24th Director-General of Inter-Services Intelligence (DG-ISI)**.

On April 12, the Pakistan Army promoted then Major General Hameed to the rank of Lieutenant General and appointed him Adjutant General at the General Headquarters (GHQ) later that month.

He was previously serving as the head of the Counter Intelligence wing in the ISI.

**Inger Andersen is appointed as the new Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme**

Inger Andersen of Denmark is appointed as the **new Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**. She was nominated to the post by **UN Secretary-General Antnio Guterres**. The nomination was approved by acclamation by the **UN General Assembly** on 20 February. She will serve for a period of four years.

**Ms. Inger Andersen:**
Ms Andersen is a former Director General of the IUCN with over thirty years of experience in the field of international development. She has held various leadership positions at the World Bank (with almost 15 years of experience) and United Nations. She was the Vice President of the Middle East and North Africa Region at the World Bank from 2011 to 2015 and Vice President for Sustainable Development and Head of the Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research Fund Council from 2010 to 2011.

**United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP):**
- **Headquarters:** Nairobi, Kenya
- **Head:** Inger Andersen
- **Director:** Erik Solheim
- **Founded on:** 1972, Nairobi, Kenya

UNEP aims to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

**Iran might break the 2015 nuclear deal because of US sanctions**

Iran announced it will breach on 27 June the limit on its stockpile of enriched uranium that was set under a 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. The Country had quadrupled production of the material, which is used to make reactor fuel and potentially nuclear weapons. This is because of the sanctions levied by the US government. The US has accused Iran of nuclear extortion.

Iran urged European countries to act by protecting Iran from reinstated US sanctions. The UK, France and Germany have warned Iran not to violate the 2015 deal. The European countries have previously said they will have no choice but to reimpose their own sanctions, which were lifted in return for limits on the Iranian nuclear programme.

**About 2015 Iran nuclear deal:**

Iran nuclear deal also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)

In 2015, Iran agreed a long-term deal on its nuclear programme with the P5+1 group of world powers - the US, UK, France, China, Russia and Germany.

Under the deal, Tehran acceded to a 10-year restriction on nuclear production.

As of May 2018, there was broad consensus that Iran has abided by the agreement.
On May 8, 2018, United States President Donald Trump announced the United States was withdrawing from the deal.

Chinese President Xi Jinping is to visit North Korea before the G20 summit

Chinese President Xi Jinping is to visit North Korea for two days on 20 June. He the first Chinese leader to visit the reclusive country in 14 years. The North Korean leader Kim Jong Un invited the Chinese President for a visit.

Chinese President's visit:
The visit by Mr. Xi to Pyongyang had long been expected within diplomatic circles. The last Chinese leader's visit North Korea was in 2005 by Hu Jintao. The year 2019 marks the 70th year since China and North Korea established diplomatic ties.

Mr. Kim has visited China four times since March 2018.
The countries will exchange views on the Korean peninsula situation, and push for new progress in the political resolution of the peninsula issue. It can be understood that Xi could now use North Korea as leverage in talks with Trump.

China-North Korea relationship:
China is the lone major ally of North Korea. North Korea and China have been working together to improve relations since 2018, after they deteriorated as Beijing backed a series of UN sanctions against its Cold War-era ally over its nuclear activities.
The visit comes amid renewed tensions between the United States and North Korea over efforts to persuade Pyongyang to give up its nuclear weapons. Pyongyang has resumed some weapons tests and warned of truly undesired consequences if the United States is not more flexible.

Facebook unveiled its cryptocurrency, Libra

Facebook finally unveiled the details of Libra, its cryptocurrency. Using Libra people can buy things or send money to people with nearly zero fees. It will be rolled out for use in 2020 and allow the platforms billions of users across the globe to make financial transactions online. The currency will be serviced by a collective of companies called the Libra Association.

Libra:
Libra is a global currency and financial infrastructure. In other words, it is a digital asset built by Facebook and powered by a new Facebook-created version of blockchain, the encrypted technology used by bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies. Facebook aims to reach the 1.7 billion people around the world who do not have access to a bank account. This new technology threatens to change the landscape of banking.

**Criticism:** Facebook's Libra, cryptocurrency is already the subject of scrutiny, as Facebook faces increasing calls for regulation and antitrust measures.

**World Bank agreed a loan agreement of USD 518 million to Pakistan for reforms**

The World Bank has agreed a loan agreement of $518 million to Pakistan for reforms to enhance tax revenues and reduce compliance cost to provide better services to the public.

The bank approved $400 million loan for the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to increase its tax to gross domestic product ratio from 13% to 17% and enhance the number of income tax return filers, among other reforms. The other $118 million will go to revenue mobilization and public resource management project of the country's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province to increase its capacity for revenue collection and the management of the province's resources.

**Aim of the agreement:**

The project aims to simplify the tax regime and strengthen the tax and customs administration. It will also support the FBR with technology and digital infrastructure and technical skills. This will enable more effective use of taxpayer information and more targeted compliance as there are only 18 lakh people file income tax returns.

**World Bank's Report:**

World Bank said that Pakistan's revenue performance has improved significantly to 12.9% in fiscal year 2017-2018 against 9.5% of GDP in fiscal year 2011-2012 owing to tax policy measures.

It said that this is still lower than the level needed by developing countries, of at least 15% of GDP, to fund basic government functions and provide services to people.
Ireland plans to ban sale of petrol and diesel cars from 2030

Ireland decided to ban the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles by 2030 as part of a major strategy to protect the environment. It is one among the 180 measures of the Irish government published in the 'Climate Action Plan'.

They plan to have 950,000 electric vehicles on Irish roads supported by a network of charging stations.

This plan also includes the elimination of non-recyclable plastic and higher fees for plastic items which are difficult to recycle.

To this, the government decided to invest in a nationwide charging network.

Their main objective is to transition to a low-carbon to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

The ban of the sale of new fossil fuel cars, they would stop granting National Car Test (NCT) certificates to such vehicles by 2045.

About Ireland
Capital: Dublin
Prime Minister: Leo Varadkar
President: Michael D. Higgins
Currency: Euro

WHO launched a new tool to handle AMR named

The World Health Organization (WHO) launched a global campaign named "AWaRe" urging governments to adopt a tool to reduce the spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), adverse events and costs.

It is developed by the WHO Essential Medicines List.

It is classified antibiotics into three groups - Access, Watch and Reserve.

The main aim to increase the proportion of global consumption of antibiotics in the Access group to at least 60% and to reduce the usage of the antibiotics from the Watch and Reserve groups.

The AWaRe campaign - 'AdoptAWaRe, Handle antibiotics with care'

About World Health Organization:
Established: April 7, 1948
Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
Director-General: Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
**INDIAN AFFAIRS**

**Centre is to set up a high level task force for agri reforms**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced that the Centre is to set up a high-level task force for agri reforms. The decision was made in the fifth meeting of the NITI Aayog governing council. The task force is for undertaking structural reforms in agriculture, including strengthening logistics, produce marketing, food processing as well as changes to the Essential Commodities Act.

The PM has pitched for foundational reforms in the agri-economy, leading to a complete transformation of the agriculture sector in India.

The task force will constitute of few chief ministers.

Because of the drought situation, some States have asked for changes in the National Disaster Response Force and State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) guidelines. The task force will work with MHA and Agriculture ministry to make changes. India is targeting a $5 trillion economy by 2024.

The 5th NITI Aayog was attended by the Chief Ministers of all States except from West Bengal, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh.

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**Suman Rao from Rajasthan Crowned Miss India 2019**

Suman Rao from Rajasthan won Femina Miss India World 2019 Title

The ceremony held at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Indoor Stadium, New Delhi.

Shivani Jadhav, Chhattisgarh won Femina Miss Grand India 2019 title.

Shreya Shanker, Bihar won Miss India United Continents 2019 title.

The judges were designer duo Falguni Shane Peacock, Miss World 2018 Vanessa Ponce de leon, actors Huma Qureshi, Chitrangda Singh, Aayush Sharma, choreographer-filmmaker Remo D'Souza, sprinter Dutee Chand and football captain Sunil Chhetri.

The show was hosted by Bollywood filmmaker Karan Johar and actor-anchor Maniesh Paul along with Miss World 2017 Manushi Chhillar.

Suman Rao is a CA Student who is studying at Rajasthan. Chhattisgarh's Shivani Jadhav an engineer crowned management student Shreya Shanker.

Telangana's Sanjana Vij won as Miss India Runner Up 2019.
India to celebrate the 20th anniversary of victory in Operation VIJAY

India is to celebrate the 20th anniversary of victory in Operation VIJAY, which is popularly known as the Kargil War. The Kargil War is a saga of strong political, military and diplomatic actions.

The Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrations for the year 2019 will be spread over three days from **25-27 July 2019** and will be organized at Dras and New Delhi. However, as part of the build up to the main event, numerous activities are planned to be organized all over the country with effect from first week of July 2019.

The theme of the day is **Remember, Rejoice and Renew**. The objective of these celebrations is to **evolve feeling of nationalism and patriotism** through nationwide campaigns especially amongst youth and to pay homage to the valiant soldiers.

**Kargil War:**

The Kargil War was an **armed conflict between India and Pakistan**. It took place in Kashmir and elsewhere along the **Line of Control (LOC)**. In India, the conflict was also referred to as Operation Vijay.

**Cause:** The Pakistani soldiers disguised as Kashmiri militants and infiltrated into positions on the Indian side of the LOC.

Based on information from local shepherds, the Indian Army was able to ascertain the points of incursion and launch **"Operation Vijay"**

The Army declared the mission successful on **July 26, 1999**; since then the day has been celebrated annually as Kargil Vijay Diwas.

The victory came at a high price. The official death toll on the Indian side was 527, while that on the Pakistani side was between 357 and 453.

**Govt. demands fingerprinting of messages from WhatsApp to trace origin**

The **Indian government has demanded** WhatsApp, the Facebook-owned messaging application, to **digitally fingerprint messages** that are sent on its platform **without breaking the encryption**.

**Aim:**

The move is to ensure traceability of all content shared through the WhatsApp platform, without reading the message. The decision is in line with draft amendments to intermediary guidelines of the **Information Technology Act released in December 2018**, which requires all internet platforms to ensure
traceability of the origin of all content shared through them. This step may provide harm free speech on the internet and can increase government control on private data. This will require the government to introduce accountable measures at its end, to ensure data protection.

**New Architecture:**
A digital fingerprint on messages means that WhatsApp has to create a database of messages shared on its platform and store them with a unique fingerprint. This will also call for WhatsApp to redesign its whole architecture. WhatsApp has maintained its stand of not being able to offer traceability on the existing end-to-end encryption architecture.

**Why the move:**
The government demands thus, after the misinformation and rumours around child kidnappings on the platform which led to a spate of lynchings across India in 2018. This made the government to demand strictly WhatsApp to introduce ways in which the origination of message can be traced in an effective manner.

**Majority Indian users using WhatsApp:**
AudienceNet, an UK-based social and consumer research agency, reported that the majority of the respondents in India selected WhatsApp as the preferred choice of social media network and a messaging platform.

It also highlighted that about 78% of the respondents trust WhatsApp to keep their personal details private and secure.

**NITI Aayog proposed that only electric vehicles should be sold after 2030**
NITI Aayog, the government's think tank, has proposed that only electric vehicles should be sold after 2030. The move is to expand the scope of the clean fuel technology beyond two- and three-wheelers.

**Proposal to Ministries:**
It also seeks to fix responsibility for different ministries. It had asked the Ministry of road transport and highways to prepare a framework to phase out the sale of diesel and petrol vehicles by 2030.

It has also suggested that the ministry to roll out an e-highways programme, with an overhead electricity network, to enable plying of trucks and buses on select National Highways.

It directed the Ministry of Heavy Industries to go for complete replacement of all
diesel/ petrol vehicles with EVs of all central ministries, agencies and public sector by 2030.

The proposals are part of the plan to manufacture **50 Gigawatt hour (GWh)** batteries by 2030.

Earlier, a panel headed by **NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant** had suggested that only electric-powered three-wheelers and two-wheelers with an engine capacity of up to **150 cc should be sold from 2025.**

**Himachal Pradesh made GPS mandatory for trekkers**

The **Himachal Pradesh government** made it mandatory for **trekkers to carry a GPS device to tackle any exigency** on 18 June 2019. The decision was made in a review meeting chaired by **Additional Chief Secretary Shrikant Baldi** on preparedness for the monsoon in Shimla.

The announcement also added that it is important that trekking and other yatras must be restricted during adverse weather. Being a disaster-prone state special attention must be taken to **disseminate weather advisories** and installing early warning systems in Himachal Pradesh.

**Himachal Pradesh:**

Governor: Acharya Dev Vrat  
Chief Minister: Jai Ram Thakur  
Statehood: 25 January 1971  
Districts: 12  
Official: Hindi  
Capitals: Shimla, Dharamshala

**Kona Raghupati was elected as the Deputy Speaker of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly**

**Kona Raghupati** was unanimously elected as the **Deputy Speaker of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly** on **18 June 2019**. He is a two-time MLA from the ruling YSRCP who is representing Bapatla constituency.

Mr. Raghupati was nominated by the Municipal Administration and Urban Development **Minister Botsa Satyanarayana** which was backed by other members of the cabinet and senior leaders of the ruling party. **Speaker Tammineni**
Sitaram declared the election of Kona Raghupathi as Deputy Speaker as he was the only contestant.

Mr. Raghupati:
He is from political family. He holds a Bachelors degree. His father, Kona Prabhakara Rao, was a veteran Congress leader who even served as the Speaker for the Assembly of united Andhra Pradesh, for a brief period between 1980 and 1981. Rao also acted as Governor for three states, Pudducherry, Sikkim and Maharshatra, serving a brief period in each state between 1983 and 1986.

KSEB signed an agreement with GJ Eco Power Pvt. Ltd. to establish Waste-to-Energy (WtE) plants
The Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) signed a power purchase agreement with Kochi-based GJ Eco Power Pvt. Ltd. to establish Waste-to-Energy (WtE) plants across the State. GJ Eco Power Pvt. Ltd. has been implementing the project at the Brahmapuram solid waste treatment plant.
The proposed plant is expected to be commissioned within 18 months of the launch of its construction. The power purchase agreement was signed in the presence of Electricity Minister M.M. Mani, Electricity Department secretary B. Ashok and KSEB chairman and managing director N.S. Pillai.
Under the agreement, the KSEB will purchase the power generated from the 9.76 MW WtE plant at a rate of Rs.6.17 per unit for a period of 20 years from the commercial operation date. Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission has approved the tariff.
The company had been roped in by the Kochi Corporation to implement the States first WtE project in the public-private partnership mode.
KSEB will be supplied with 330 tonnes per day (TPD) of municipal solid waste by the local body. It is tasked with generating 47 million units (mu) of power.

Indias domestic air passenger traffic grew about 3 percent during May
Indias domestic air passenger traffic grew about 3% year-on-year during May. It reversed a 4.5% fall the sector witnessed in April as a result of the grounding of cash-strapped Jet Airways Ltd., India that led to severe capacity crunch in the sector.
According to data from **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** said that the domestic carriers carried a total of 1.22 crore passengers in May compared with 1.19 crore passengers carried by various airlines during the corresponding period a year ago.

**IndiGo airline:**
During May, **InterGlobe Aviation Ltd-promoted IndiGo airline** clocked in a 49% market share. It carried 59.80 lakh domestic passengers. In April, the airline had 49.9% market share, its highest ever since inception as a schedule carrier in 2006, as it flew a record 54.81 lakh passengers during the month.

**SpiceJet and Air India:**
During May, **SpiceJet** displaced Air India as the second largest domestic carrier. SpiceJet, which carried 18.03 lakh passengers, accounted for 14.8% of domestic market share, while **Air India** carried 16.53 lakh passengers, with a 13.5% of domestic market share.

**ICG co-hosts 12th ReCAAP ISC capacity building workshop in New Delhi**

**Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** co-hosted the 12th Capacity Building workshop in New Delhi.

The cooperation with the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) Information Sharing Centre (‘SC) in New Delhi.

It began on June 19, 2019, and concluded on June 20, 2019.

The main aim is to deepen knowledge on issues related to piracy and armed robbery.

It was inaugurated by Additional Director General, Indian Coast Guard V SR Murthy.

Around 31 International delegates from 19 countries participated in the workshop.

**About ReCAAP:**
It is the first regional Government-to-Government agreement to deal with piracy and armed robbery at sea in Asia.

Currently, 20 countries are members of ReCAAP.

India played an active role in setting up and functioning of ReCAAP ISC along with Japan and Singapore.

Union Government designated ICG as the focal point within India for ReCAAP.
India hosted this workshop in NI 2011 at Goa and December 2017 at New Delhi.
DEFENCE

Operation Sunrise was carried out between India and Myanmar to target militant group

Operation Sunrise 2 is a coordinated military operation which was carried out between India and Myanmar to target militant groups. The Indian army and Myanmar Army carried out a three-week-long coordinated operation in their respective border areas from May 16. The operation targeted several militant groups operating in Manipur, Nagaland and Assam.

First Phase:
The first phase of "Operation Sunrise" was conducted in March along the Indo-Myanmar border. In the operation a number of camps of north-east-based militant groups were busted.

Second Phase:
During "Operation Sunrise 2", the armies coordinated with each other to bust camps of militant outfits, including the Kamtapur Liberation Organisation (KLO), NSCN (Khaplang), the United Liberation Front of Assam (I) and the National Democratic Front of Boroland (NDFB). Nearly six dozen militants belonging to these groups were nabbed and several of their camps destroyed during the operation.

India has been pushing for deeper coordination between the armies of the two countries while guarding the border.
**SPORTS**

**Bangladesh recorded the second highest successful chase in World Cup history**

Bangladesh has recorded the second highest successful chase in World Cup history. The Bangladesh cricket team chased down the target of 322 against West Indies. Bangladesh (322/3) beat West Indies (321/8) by 7 wickets in Taunton. The previous second highest successful chase in World Cup was also recorded by Bangladesh when they chased down the target of 319 against Scotland in 2015. Notably, it is also Bangladesh's highest ever chase in ODI cricket.

**2019 Cricket World Cup:**
- **Dates:** 30 May-14 July
- **Administrator:** International Cricket Council
- **Cricket format:** One Day International
- **Host:** England
- **Participants:** 10
- It is the 12th edition of the Cricket World Cup

**England captain Eoin Morgan set the world record for most sixes in an ODI**

England captain Eoin Morgan set the world record for most sixes (17) in an One Day International (ODI). He achieved this record during his 71-ball 148-run knock against Afghanistan in World Cup on 18 June 2019. Morgan was assisted by Joe Root in the 189-run partnership for the third wicket during which Root made 88 runs off 82 balls.

**Previous records:**
The previous record for most sixes (16 sixes) was jointly held by Rohit Sharma, Chris Gayle and AB de Villiers. England ended up with the 6th highest team total in a World Cup match with 397 for 6 in 50 overs after they opted to bat first at Old Trafford cricket ground.

**4th fastest hundred in a WC:**
Morgan hit his century off 57 balls. It was the fourth fastest hundred in a World Cup match.

The first three ranks were et up by:
- 1) Ireland's Kevin O'Brien (50 balls), against England in 2011
2) Australia's **Glenn Maxwell** (51 balls), against Sri Lanka in 2015
3) South Africa's **AB de Villiers** (55 balls), against West Indies in 2015
SUMMITS & CONFERENCE

The 2nd edition of India and Italy Joint Working Group on counter terrorism was held in New Delhi

The 2nd Meeting of India-Italy Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism was held in New Delhi, India on 17 June 2019. The meeting was co-chaired by Mahaveer Singhvi, Joint Secretary (Counter Terrorism), Ministry of External Affairs and Diego Brasioli, Principal Director for Security, Disarmament and non- Proliferation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Italy. The next meeting of the Joint Working Group will be held in Italy.

Objectives:
The joint working group discussed threats posed by terrorist entities globally and in their respective regions including cross border terrorism.

The discussion included:
Views on current counterterrorism challenges including countering radicalization, terror financing and misuse of internet for terrorist purposes threats arising from transnational crimes and money laundering deliberated upon measures to deepen bilateral cooperation for countering terrorism and transnational crimes through regular exchange of information, mutual capacity building efforts, sharing of best practices and mutual legal assistance the Cooperation in multilateral fora
APPOINTMENTS / RESIGN

Zuzana Caputova sworn as Slovakia's first female President

Zuzana Caputova sworn as Slovakia's first female President.
The swearing-in ceremony took place at Constitutional Court chair Ivan Fiacan parliamentary session held in Bratislava, Xinhua.
After her sworn in the ceremony she insisted to maintain and strengthen this space of the pillars of Slovakia.
She is the fifth president in the modern Slovak.
She was elected in the month of March.
She defeated Smer-SD candidate Maros Sefcovic.

About Slovakia
It is a landlocked country in Central Europe
Capital: Bratislava
Currency: Euro

Om Birla has been elected as the 17th Lok Sabha Speaker

Om Birla has been unanimously elected as the 17th Lok Sabha Speaker with the opposition Congress coming out in support of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA)’s candidate. Birla will replace Sumitra Mahajan.

Mr. Om Birla:
He is a two-time Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) member of Parliament (MP) from Rajasthan. Birla is also a member of the Standing Committee on Energy in Parliament, member of Committee on Petitions and Consultative Committee for Ministry of social justice and empowerment. He has an 86% average attendance in the House.

Nominated by:
Mr. Birla was nominated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, defence minister Rajnath Singh, home minister Amit Shah and minister for transport and highways and shipping Nitin Gadkari. He was also backed by Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP).
The United Progressive Alliance (UPA) which was led by the Congress has also decided to support Birlas candidature.
**IMPORTANT DAYS**

**World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought observed on June 17**

*World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought day* is observed every year on June 17. The theme for this year is Let's grow the future together. Aim: To promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification. Land degradation neutrality is achieved through problem-solving, strong community involvement and cooperation at all levels. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres land degradation and drought are major threats affecting millions of people worldwide, particularly women and children. Every year, the world loses 24 billion tons of fertile soil and dryland degradation reduces national domestic product in developing countries by up to 8 per cent annually. Protecting and restoring land and better using it can reduce forced migration, improve food security and spur economic growth. They can also help to address the global climate emergency. To recognize the imperative of combating desertification as part of the efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals.

**About Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change**

Formed: 1985
Headquarters: New Delhi
Annual budget: 2,675.42 crore
Minister responsible: Prakash Javadekar

**World Refugee Day is observed on 20 June with the theme #StepWithRefugees  Take A Step on World Refugee Day**

*World Refugee Day* is observed on June 20 each year. The day is dedicated to raising awareness of the situation of refugees throughout the world. The theme for 2019 World Refugee day is #StepWithRefugees Take A Step on World Refugee Day. The theme expects communities, schools, businesses, faith groups and people from all walks of life should take big and small steps in solidarity with refugees.
Refugee is a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.

History:
The United Nations General Assembly decided that from 2000, 20 June would be celebrated as World Refugee Day. The General Assembly noted that 2001 marked the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. Prior to 2000, the African Refugee Day had been formally celebrated in several countries. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) had agreed to decision of UN to observe the International Refugee Day coincide with Africa Refugee Day on 20 June.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR):
- Formed on: 14 December 1950
- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- High Commissioner for Refugees: Filippo Grandi

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, also known as the UN Refugee Agency, is a United Nations programme. It aim to protect refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people, and assist in their voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement to a third country.

Fifth International Yoga Day being celebrated on June 21

Nepal celebrates 5th International Day of Yoga. Government of Nepal planned to organize a yoga program in Kathmandu to celebrate the International Day of Yoga. International Day of Yoga aims to raise awareness worldwide about the benefits of practicing yoga.

The 2019 Theme: Yoga for Climate Action.

Prime Minister of Nepal K. P. Sharma Oli as chief guest. Indian Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri and other dignitaries will also attend the event. Janakpur city, a special programme organised early in the morning at the premises of famous Janaki temple.

A mass Yoga Utsav held in temple premises. The event organised by the Embassy of India in association with Janaki temple trust and Patanjali Yogpeeth Nepal. Many government officials Governor and Chief Minister of Province 2, senior leaders from Center and Province 2 and officials of Indian Embassy Kathmandu and Consul General of India Birgunj join Yoga Day celebrations.
Patanjali Yogpeeth Nepal planned events in all seven provinces of Himalayan nation. Around two hundred programmes will be held in all 77 districts headquarters to celebrate International Day of Yoga.

**India - Celebration of yoga**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the nation in celebrating yoga day from Ranchi in Jharkhand.

The main function held at the Prabhat Tara ground in Ranchi.

Prime Minister insisted on integrating yoga with health schemes.

Government has integrated yoga with health and wellness to make it a pillar of preventive health care.

At Gujarat 1.51 crore people participated in the celebrations. Governor of Gujarat O.P. Kohli and Chief Minister Vijay Rupani. Prime Minister participated in the event through video conferencing early this morning.

Tamil Nadu, several programs were organised by Central Government offices, Central and state Government schools and yoga groups.

**About Nepal**

Capital: Kathmandu
Currency: Nepalese rupee
Prime minister: KP Sharma Oli
The 48th DG conference was held between India's BSF and BGB was concluded in Dhaka, Bangladesh

The 48th DG conference was held between India's Border Security Force (BSF) and the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB). It was concluded on 15 June at Dhaka, Bangladesh. A Joint Record of Discussion was signed by DG, BSF, Rajni Kant Mishra and DG, BGB, Major General Md Shafeenul Islam.

Agreement included:
Both BSF and BGB agreed to undertake joint efforts to bring down the killing incidents to zero by increasing coordinated patrols in vulnerable areas to cattle and narcotics smuggling, educating border population about the sanctity of International Border (IB) and preventing criminals from crossing the IB.
Both sides also agreed to pursue and share real-time information including a preliminary questioning report as applicable about the persons apprehended with smuggled items.
The two Border guard forces also agreed to declare new areas as crime free zone in phases of which proposed area within Sarail region or Tripura Frontier may be formalised in the first phase.
The next DG level conference will be held in New Delhi during the first week of November 2019.
1) Who is the new president of Slovakia?

A. Alexander Dubcek  
B. Vladimir Meciar  
C. udovt tr  
D. Zuzana Caputova

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Zuzana Caputova is the new president of Slovakia. The swearing-in ceremony took place at Constitutional Court chair Ivan Fiacan parliamentary session held in Bratislava, Xinhua. After her sworn in ceremony she insisted to maintain and strengthen this space of the pillars of Slovakia.

2) When was the Mann Ki Baat Indian radio programme started?

A. June 2014  
B. July 2014  
C. October 2014  
D. November 2014

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Mann Ki Baat Indian radio programme which was originally released on 3 October 2014. Mann Ki Baat Indian radio programme hosted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in which he addresses the people of the nation on All India Radio, DD National and DD News. Mann Ki Baat is to resume on June 30.

3) Mann Ki Baat is to resume on June 30. Who hosts the programme?

A. President of India  
B. Prime Minister  
C. Parliament  
D. Cabinet Members

**Answer B**
**Explanation** Mann Ki Baat Indian radio programme hosted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in which he addresses the people of the nation on All India Radio, DD National and DD News. Mann Ki Baat is to resume on June 30. The programme aims to deliver the Prime Minister's voice to the general masses of India. It also aims to spread joy, positivity and celebrate the strength of 130 crore Indians. People can share their questions on the NaMo App Open Forum.

4) How many member countries are there in Financial Action Task Force (FATF)?

A. 38  
B. 42  
C. 48  
D. 51

**Answer A**

**Explanation** FATF is an inter-governmental body which devices policy and sets standards to promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system. The FATF currently comprises 36 member jurisdictions and 2 regional organisations, representing most major financial centres in all parts of the globe.

5) Which country did the US allow to import Iranian gas for its power grid for another three months by extending a waiver to sanctions?

A. UAE  
B. Saudi Arabia  
C. Syria  
D. Iraq

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The United States has allowed Iraq to import Iranian gas for its power grid for another three months by extending a waiver to sanctions. But the US insisted that Iraq finds an alternative measure for its need of electricity, including by harnessing gas energy and reducing flaring at oil production sites. Iraq has had several extensions to the waiver first granted in 2018 after Washington reimposed sanctions on Tehran's oil sector forbidding countries from purchasing Iranian energy.

6) Who was removed as the Chairman of the J&K Bank?
A.R K Chibber
B.Parvez Ahmed
C.Ashwani Kumar
D.Pranlal Devkaran Nanjee

Answer B

Explanation The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday removed J&K Bank Chairman Parvez Ahmad and appointed R K Chibber as interim Chairman.

7) Which bank has been moved under the purview of Right to Information Act and Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) guidelines to ensure transparency and accountability?

A.Dena Bank
B.Yes Bank
C.Karur Vysya Bank
D.Jammu and Kashmir Bank

Answer D

Explanation The Jammu and Kashmir Bank is now under the purview of Right to Information Act and Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) guidelines. The decision was taken by the Board of Directors of the Jammu and Kashmir Bank. The move will ensure greater transparency and accountability. The decision is after the removal of Parvez Ahmed as the Chairman of the J&K Bank. He was accused of alleged corruption, nepotism and favouritism.

8) Centre is to set up a high-level task force for __________.

A.anti-corruption
B.Medical reforms
C.Agri-economy reform
D.Finance sector

Answer C

Explanation Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced that the Centre is to set up a high-level task force in the fifth meeting of the NITI Aayog governing council. The task force is for undertaking structural reforms in agriculture, including strengthening logistics, produce
marketing, food processing as well as changes to the Essential Commodities Act. The PM has pitched for foundational reforms in the agri-economy, leading to a complete transformation of the agriculture sector in India. The task force will constitute of few chief ministers.

9) What is India's economy target by 2024?

A.$5 trillion  
B.$7 trillion  
C.$10 trillion  
D.$12 trillion

Answer A

Explanation Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the goal is to make India a $5 trillion dollar economy by 2024. He also said that the goal is challenging but can be achieved with the concerted efforts of states.

10) PM Modi has announced the setting up of a high-level task force for undertaking structural reforms in the _________ meeting of the NITI Aayog governing council.

A.3rd  
B.4th  
C.5th  
D.6th

Answer C

Explanation Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced that the Centre is to set up a high-level task force in the fifth meeting of the NITI Aayog governing council. The task force is for undertaking structural reforms in agriculture, including strengthening logistics, produce marketing, food processing as well as changes to the Essential Commodities Act.

11) Operation Sunrise 2 is a coordinated military operation which was carried out between _________ and _________ to target militant groups.

A.India and China  
B.India and Myanmar  
C.Indonesia and Thailand
D. India and Thailand

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Operation Sunrise 2 is a coordinated military operation which was carried out between India and Myanmar to target militant groups. The Indian army and Myanmar Army carried out a three-week-long coordinated operation in their respective border areas from May 16. The operation targeted several militant groups operating in Manipur, Nagaland and Assam.

12) India is to host the __________ of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

A. 12th session of the Conference of Parties (COP-12)
B. 13th session of the Conference of Parties (COP-13)
C. 14th session of the Conference of Parties (COP-14)
D. 15th session of the Conference of Parties (COP-15)

**Answer C**

**Explanation** India will be hosting the 14th session of the Conference of Parties (COP-14) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) for the first time. COP-14 will be held between September 2 and 14 in Delhi. It is expected that at least 5,000 delegates from nearly 197 countries will be participating.

13) Where was the 13th session of the Conference of Parties (COP-13) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) held?

A. Ordos, China
B. Dhaka, Bangladesh
C. Tokyo, Japan
D. London, England

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The 13th session of the Conference of Parties (COP-13) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was held in Ordos, China. Around 113 countries had agreed to specify concrete targets with clear indicators, to rehabilitate more land and reverse degradation, which currently affects over a third of the world’s land resources.

14) __________ is a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of the world’s
deforested under restoration by 2020, and 350 million hectares by 2030.

A. Ramsar convention  
B. Montreal Protocol  
C. Kyoto protocol  
D. Bonn Challenge

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The Bonn Challenge is a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded land under restoration by 2020, and 350 million hectares by 2030.

15) When did the Operation Vijay, the Indian operation to push back infiltrators in the Kargil War, happen?

A. 1992  
B. 1995  
C. 1997  
D. 1999

**Answer D**

**Explanation** India is to celebrate the 20th anniversary of victory in Operation VIJAY popularly known as the Kargil War. The Kargil War is a saga of strong political, military and diplomatic actions. The Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrations for the year 2019 will be spread over three days from 25-27 July 2019 and will be organized at Dras and New Delhi.

16) Kargil war is also known as __________.

A. Operation VIJAY  
B. Operation Sunrise  
C. Operation Kargil  
D. Operation COPA

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Kargil War was an armed conflict between India and Pakistan. It took place in Kashmir and along the Line of Control (LOC). In India, the conflict was also referred to as Operation Vijay.
17) What is the cause of Kargil war 1999?

A. Pakistan demanded Kashmir by war  
B. Pakistan held 55 Indian citizens hostile  
C. Pakistani soldiers infiltrated  
D. None of these

Answer C

Explanation The Kargil War was an armed conflict between India and Pakistan. It took place in Kashmir and along the Line of Control (LOC). In India, the conflict was also referred to as Operation Vijay. The Pakistani soldiers disguised as Kashmiri militants and infiltrated into positions on the Indian side of the LOC. Indian army launched "Operation Vijay" to push back infiltrators.

18) India is to celebrate the _________ anniversary of victory in Operation VIJAY.

A. 15th  
B. 20th  
C. 25th  
D. 30th

Answer B

Explanation India is to celebrate the 20th anniversary of victory in Operation VIJAY popularly known as the Kargil War. The Kargil War is a saga of strong political, military and diplomatic actions. The Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrations for the year 2019 will be spread over three days from 25-27 July 2019 and will be organized at Dras and New Delhi.

19) Which Cricket team has recorded the 2nd highest successful chase in World Cup history?

A. West Indies  
B. Bangladesh  
C. India  
D. Pakistan

Answer B
Explanation Bangladesh has recorded the second highest successful chase in World Cup history. The Bangladesh cricket team chased down the target of 322 against West Indies. Bangladesh (322/3) beat West Indies (321/8) by 7 wickets in Taunton. The previous second highest successful chase in World Cup was also recorded by Bangladesh when they chased down the target of 319 against Scotland in 2015. Notably, it is also Bangladesh's highest ever chase in ODI cricket.

20) Which country hosts the 2019 Cricket World Cup?

A. Japan  
B. China  
C. India  
D. England

Answer D

Explanation 2019 Cricket World Cup is being held from 30 May to 14 July. It is hosted by England. 10 teams are Participating. It is the 12th edition of the Cricket World Cup.

21) Which team did Bangladesh chase, when it set record of highest chase in WC history?

A. West Indies  
B. Australia  
C. Scotland  
D. England

Answer C

Explanation The first highest successful chase in World Cup was also recorded by Bangladesh when they chased down the target of 319 against Scotland in 2015. Notably, it is also Bangladesh's highest ever chase in ODI cricket.

22) Where was the 2nd Meeting of India-Italy Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism held?

A. New Delhi, India  
B. Mumbai, India  
C. Rome, Italy  
D. Milan, Italy
23) Which Ministry conducted the 2nd Meeting of India-Italy Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism?

A. Counter Terrorism Division, Ministry of External Affairs  
B. Counter Terrorism Division, Ministry of Home Affairs  
C. Counter Terrorism Division, Ministry of Defence  
D. Counter Terrorism Division, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

Answer A

Explanation  The 2nd Meeting of India-Italy Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism was held at New Delhi, India on 17 June 2019. The joint working group discussed threats posed by terrorist entities globally and in their respective regions including cross border terrorism.

24) Who is appointed as the new Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)?

A. Timothy E. Wirth  
B. N.R. Narayana Murthy  
C. Inger Andersen  
D. Igor Ivanov

Answer C

Explanation  Inger Andersen of Denmark is appointed as the new Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). She was nominated to the post by UN Secretary-General Antnio Guterres. The nomination was approved by acclamation by the UN General Assembly on 20 February. She will serve for a period of four years.

25) Where is the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) located?

A. New York, the US  
B. Nairobi, Kenya
C. Abuja, Nigeria
D. London, England

**Answer B**

**Explanation** UNEP is Headquartered at Nairobi, Kenya. The head is Inger Andersen and Director is Erik Solheim. It was founded on 1972, Nairobi, Kenya. UNEP aims to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

26) **When was the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), a programme of the United Nations formed?**

A. 1988  
B. 1916  
C. 1958  
D. 1972  

**Answer D**

**Explanation** UNEP is Headquartered at Nairobi, Kenya. The head is Inger Andersen and Director is Erik Solheim. It was founded on 1972, Nairobi, Kenya. UNEP aims to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

27) **India's Border Security Force (BSF) signed Joint Record of Discussion with __________ at the 48th DG level talks.**

A. Pakistan Rangers (PR)  
B. People's Armed Police (PAP) China  
C. Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB)  
D. Border Security Agency (BSA)  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** India's Border Security Force (BSF) and the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) concluded the 48th DG level talks on 15 June at Dhaka, Bangladesh. A Joint Record of Discussion was signed by DG, BSF, Rajni Kant Mishra and DG, BGB, Major General Md...
Shafeenul Islam.

28) Where was the 48th DG level talks between India's Border Security Force (BSF) and the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) held?

A. Dhaka, Bangladesh  
B. New Delhi, India  
C. Dispur, Assam  
D. Chittagong, Bangladesh

**Answer A**

**Explanation** India's Border Security Force (BSF) and the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) concluded the 48th DG level talks on 15 June at Dhaka, Bangladesh. A Joint Record of Discussion was signed by DG, BSF, Rajni Kant Mishra and DG, BGB, Major General Md Shafeenul Islam.

29) The Centre is demanding ________ for fingerprinting of messages to trace the origin of all content shared through it.

A. Twitter  
B. WhatsApp  
C. Instagram  
D. Snapchat

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Indian government has demanded Whatsapp, the Facebook-owned messaging application, to digitally fingerprint messages that are sent on its platform without breaking the encryption. The move is to ensure traceability of all content shared through the WhatsApp platform, without reading the message. This decision is in line with draft amendments to intermediary guidelines of the Information Technology Act released in December 2018, which requires all internet platforms to ensure traceability of the origin of all content shared through them.

30) ___________ has begun to construct a road using plastic waste for the first time ever.

A. Mumbai Development Authority (MDA)  
B. Lucknow Development Authority (LDA)
C. Hyderabad Development Authority (HDA)
D. Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA)

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) is constructing a road using plastic waste for the first time ever. The road is constructed from Gomti Nagar Police Station to Indian Institute of Management (IIM) under a pilot project by LDA in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The LDA has followed guidelines of the Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) in road construction.

31) Facebook unveiled its cryptocurrency ________.

A. Ripple
B. Libra
C. Ethereum
D. Cardano

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Facebook finally unveiled the details of Libra, its cryptocurrency. Using Libra people can buy things or send money to people with nearly zero fees. It will be rolled out for use in 2020 and allow the platforms billions of users across the globe to make financial transactions online. The currency will be serviced by a collective of companies called the Libra Association.

32) Using Libra people can buy things or send money to people with ______ fees.

A. nearly zero
B. 1%
C. 0.12%
D. 0.8%

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Facebook finally unveiled the details of Libra, its cryptocurrency. Using Libra people can buy things or send money to people with nearly zero fees. It will be rolled out for use in 2020 and allow the platforms billions of users across the globe to make financial transactions online. The currency will be serviced by a collective of companies called the Libra Association.

33) When will FB roll out its cryptocurrency Libra?
Facebook finally unveiled the details of Libra, its cryptocurrency. Using Libra people can buy things or send money to people with nearly zero fees. It will be rolled out for use in 2020 and allow the platforms billions of users across the globe to make financial transactions online.

34) Recently, RBI imposed penalty on HDFC Bank for violating _________.

A. know your customer (KYC) norms  
B. anti-money laundering (AML) norms  
C. prepaid payment issue (PPI) norms  
D. A and B

Answer D

Explanation The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed Rs.1 crore penalty on private sector lender HDFC Bank for violating know your customer (KYC) and anti-money laundering (AML) norms. The penalty was imposed on 18 June 2019.

35) Who has been elected as the Speaker of Lok Sabha?

A. Sumitra Mahajan  
B. Om Birla  
C. M Thambidurai  
D. Virendra Kumar

Answer B

Explanation Om Birla has been unanimously elected as the 17th Lok Sabha Speaker with the opposition Congress coming out in support of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA)s candidate. Birla will replace Sumitra Mahajan.

36) Who was the former Speaker of Lok Sabha?
A.M Thambidurai
B.Virendra Kumar
C.Om Birla
D.Sumitra Mahajan

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Sumitra Mahajan was the 16th and former Speaker of Lok Sabha.

37) **Om Birla is the ________speaker of Lok Sabha.**

A.17th  
B.18th  
C.19th  
D.20th

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Om Birla has been unanimously elected as the 17th Lok Sabha Speaker with the opposition Congress coming out in support of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA)s candidate.

38) **Who sworn in as the Pro-tem Speaker of 17th Lok Sabha?**

A.Virendra Kumar  
B.Om Birla  
C.M Thambidurai  
D.M. A. Ayyangar Tirupati

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Virendra Kumar sworn in as the Pro tem Speaker of 17th Lok Sabha.

39) **RBI has set up a committee under former chairman of SEBI UK Sinha to review ___________.**

A.economic monetary policy  
B.ATM charges and fees by banks  
C.current framework for the MSME sector
D. home-loan Securitization

Answer C

Explanation The Reserve Bank of India had set up an eight-member expert committee under the leadership of former chairman of SEBI UK Sinha on 18 June 2019. The aim is to review the current framework for the MSME sector.

40) Who has set the world record for most sixes in an ODI?

A. Virat Kohli  
B. AB de Villiers  
C. Rohit Sharma  
D. Eoin Morgan

Answer D

Explanation England captain Eoin Morgan set the world record for most sixes (17) in an ODI. He achieved this record during his 71-ball 148-run knock against Afghanistan in World Cup on 18 June 2019. Morgan also set record as 4th fastest World Cup hundred by an England player (57 balls). The previous record (16 sixes) was jointly held by Rohit Sharma, Chris Gayle and AB de Villiers.

41) Who set the previous record for most sixes in an ODI?

A. Rohit Sharma  
B. Chris Gayle  
C. AB de Villiers  
D. All the above

Answer D

Explanation The previous record of the world record for most sixes (16 sixes) was jointly held by Rohit Sharma, Chris Gayle and AB de Villiers.

42) How many sixes did Eoin Morgan to set the world record for most sixes in an ODI?

A. 14  
B. 17
43) According to Randstad Employer Brand Research (REBR) 2019, which Company is the most attractive employer brand in India?

A. Amazon  
B. Microsoft  
C. Sony  
D. Mercedes-Benz  

Answer A  

Explanation According to the Randstad Employer Brand Research (REBR) 2019 Amazon India, the E-commerce giant, is the most attractive employer brand in the country. Amazon scored high on financial health, utilisation of latest technologies and a strong reputation.

44) NITI Aayog proposed that only electric vehicles should be sold after ________.

A. 2022  
B. 2025  
C. 2030  
D. 2035  

Answer C  

Explanation NITI Aayog, the government's think tank, has proposed that only electric vehicles should be sold after 2030. The move is to expand the scope of the clean fuel technology beyond two- and three-wheelers.

45) NITI Aayog directed Ministry of road transport and highways to roll out __________ with an overhead electricity network.
A.e-EV programme  
B.e-highways programme  
C.EV for 2030 programme  
D.clean fuel programme

**Answer B**

**Explanation** NITI Aayog, the government's think tank, has proposed that only electric vehicles should be sold after 2030. The move is to expand the scope of the clean fuel technology beyond two- and three-wheelers. NITI Aayog also seeks to fix responsibility for different ministries. It had asked the Ministry of road transport and highways to prepare a framework to phase out the sale of diesel and petrol vehicles by 2030. It has also suggested that the ministry to roll out an e-highways programme, with an overhead electricity network, to enable plying of trucks and buses on select National Highways.

46) Which state made GPS device mandatory for trekkers?  
A.Jammu & Kashmir  
B.Sikkim  
C.Himachal Pradesh  
D.Uttaranchal

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Himachal Pradesh government made it mandatory for trekkers to carry a GPS device to tackle any exigency on 18 June 2019. The decision was made in a review meeting chaired by Additional Chief Secretary Shrikant Baldi on preparedness for the monsoon in Shimla.

47) The highest bridge in Asia at Kandror is located on which river?  
A.Beas  
B.Chenab  
C.Ravi  
D.Sutlej

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The highest bridge in Asia at Kandror is located on Sutlej river.

48) Who is appointed as the Chief Risk Officer of Indiabulls Housing Finance
Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd has appointed Naveen Uppal as the Chief Risk Officer (CRO). The appointment complied with norms of National Housing Bank (NHB), the housing finance sector regulator. His appointment will be for a period of three years with effect from June 17, 2019. He will be directly reporting to the managing director and CEO of the company.

49) World bank has agreed to lend _________ to Pakistan to support its economy and broaden the revenue base.

A.$431 million
B.$235 million
C.$345 million
D.$518 million

Answer D

Explanation The World Bank has agreed a loan agreement of $518 million to Pakistan for reforms to enhance tax revenues and reduce compliance cost to provide better services to the public. The bank approved $400 million loan for the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and $118 million to revenue mobilization and public resource management project of the country's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province to increase its capacity for revenue collection and the management of the province's resources.

50) Which country planned to ban sale of petrol and diesel cars from 2030 ?

A.Indonesia
B.Iran
C.Ireland
D.South Africa

Answer C
**Explanation** Ireland planned to ban sale of petrol and diesel cars from 2030. It is one among the 180 measures of the Irish government published in the 'Climate Action Plan'. They plan to have 950,000 electric vehicles on Irish roads supported by a network of charging stations.

51) **Which state topped the USGBC list of Top 10 States for LEED in India?**

A. Tamil Nadu  
B. Andhra Pradesh  
C. Himachal Pradesh  
D. Maharashtra

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The Second Edition of the United States Green Building Council's (USGBC) list of India's top 10 states are released. The states which have maximum number of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified green buildings are listed below. Maharashtra bagged the top slot with 334 LEED-certified green buildings.

52) **When is the World Refugee Day observed?**

A. May 15  
B. April 30  
C. June 20  
D. May 1

**Answer C**

**Explanation** World Refugee Day is observed on June 20 each year. The day is dedicated to raising awareness of the situation of refugees throughout the world. The theme for 2019 World Refugee day is #StepWithRefugees Take A Step on World Refugee Day. The theme expects communities, schools, businesses, faith groups and people from all walks of life should take big and small steps in solidarity with refugees.

53) **What is the theme of the World Refugee Day 2019?**

A. #StepWithRefugees Take A Step on World Refugee Day  
B. Now More Than Ever, We Need to Stand with Refugees  
C. 1 family torn apart by war is too many  
D. Home
Answer A

Explanation World Refugee Day is observed on June 20 each year. The day is dedicated to raising awareness of the situation of refugees throughout the world. The theme for 2019 World Refugee Day is #StepWithRefugees Take A Step on World Refugee Day. The theme expects communities, schools, businesses, faith groups and people from all walks of life should take big and small steps in solidarity with refugees.

54) Since when UN is celebrating the World Refugee Day?

A. 1995  
B. 2000  
C. 2003  
D. 2005

Answer B

Explanation The United Nations General Assembly decided that from 2000, 20 June would be celebrated as World Refugee Day. The General Assembly (UN High Commissioner for Refugee) noted that 2001 marked the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. Prior to 2000, the African Refugee Day had been formally celebrated in several countries. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) had agreed to the decision of the UN to observe the International Refugee Day coincide with Africa Refugee Day on 20 June.

55) Who is the UN High Commissioner for Refugees?

A. Amina J. Mohammed  
B. Kemi Adeosun  
C. Filippo Grandi  
D. Antonio Guterres

Answer C

Explanation Filippo Grandi is an Italian diplomat who is mainly active with the United Nations' humanitarian operations. Between 2010 and 2014, he served as Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. He had earlier served as its Deputy Commissioner-General.

56) When international Day of Yoga observed?
A. June 21  
B. May 16  
C. April 15  
D. July 16

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Nepal celebrates 5th International Day of Yoga. Government of Nepal planned to organize a yoga program in Kathmandu to celebrate the International Day of Yoga. International Day of Yoga aims to raise awareness worldwide about the benefits of practicing yoga.
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