



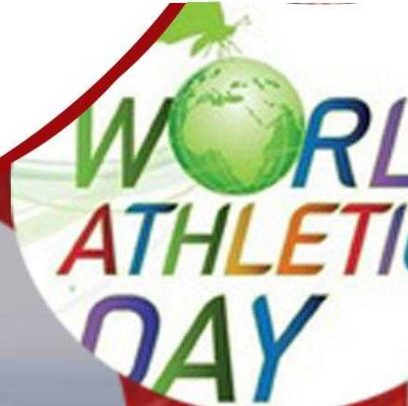
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JUNE - 2019

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We Shine AcademyTM
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Main Office @

Weshine Study Circle

Chromepet, Chennai

Phone: 8939144344, 8939244344

Branch Office @

Weshine Study Circle

Plot No: 47/60, "AK" Block,
7th Main Road, Anna Nagar
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600 040.

3rd Floor, West Wing, Gokul Arcarde,
No.2, Sardar Patel Road, Adyar
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600 020.

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NATIONAL NEWS

- **According to Mary Meeker's Internet Trends 2019 report, India accounts for 12% of the world's internet users.** Almost 3.8 billion people or more than half of the world's population is on the Internet.
 - China continues to be on top of the list, accounting for 21% of the total Internet users.
- The government has reduced the rate of the contribution made by employees and employers under the **Employees' State Insurance (ESI)** Act from 6.5 per cent to 4 per cent. The government has taken a historic decision to reduce the rate of contribution under the ESI act.
 - The new rate will be effective from the 1st of July.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- **India is to launch Aditya-L1, its first mission to study the sun, in 2020,** Indian Space Research Organisation Chairman K. Sivan informed.
 - The aim of the mission is to keep a permanent eye on the sun without any disturbance. Aditya-L1 is meant to observe the solar corona.

ECONOMY

- **Foreign Direct Investment to India grew by 6 per cent to 42 billion dollars in 2018. It grew with strong inflows in the manufacturing,** communication and financial services sectors, and cross-border merger and acquisition activities.
 - The report ranked India among the top 20 host economies for FDI inflows in 2017-18.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Kassym-Jomart Tokayev took oath as the new president of Kazakhstan. He was acting president following the surprise resignation of Nursultan Nazarbayev in March this year.**
 - The career diplomat became the country's second elected president after succeeding 78-year-old Nursultan Nazarbayev.

AWARDS

- **Actress Priyanka Chopra will be awarded the Danny Kaye Humanitarian Award by UNICEF's American chapter at their Snowflake Ball in December.** The award is named after actor-philanthropist Danny Kaye, who was UNICEF's first Goodwill Ambassador.
 - The actor is a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, as a part of which she visited Ethiopia last month.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- **Every year on 14 June, countries around the world celebrate World Blood Donor Day (WBDD).** The event, established in 2004, serves to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products and to thank blood donors for their voluntary, life-saving gifts of blood.
 - Theme: Safe blood for all