

**SEPTEMBER
2018**

winmeen.com

**THIRD WEEK
CURRENT AFFAIRS**

15 SEP - 21 SEP



www.winmeen.com

CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. India to hold its first-ever global tourism mart in which city?

Ans: New Delhi

- ✓ India will hold its first-ever global tourism mart at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi from September 16-18. It is modelled on the ITB Berlin, the world's largest tourism trade fair. The ten major tourist organisations like FHRAI, HAI, and IATO are involved in this mega event.
- ✓ The purpose of the event is to create an annual global tourism mart for India in line with major international travel marts being held in countries across the world. The mart will see the participation of around 225 international buyers from across the world such as North America, Latin America.

2. What is the India's ranks in the latest UN's Human Development Index (HDI) report 2018?

Ans: 130

- ✓ India has been ranked 130 among 189 countries in the latest Human Development Index (HDI) report 2018, which is released by the United Nations Development Programme. As per report, between 1990 and 2017, India's HDI value saw a 50% increase from 0.427 to 0.640, an indicator of the country's remarkable achievement in lifting millions of people out of poverty.
- ✓ During the period, India's life expectancy at birth increased by nearly 11 years. India's gross per capita income increased by a staggering 266.6% between 1990 and 2017. The HDI is a summary measure for assessing long-term progress in three basic dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, access to knowledge and a decent standard of living.
- ✓ Norway, Switzerland, Australia, Ireland and Germany led the ranking, while Niger, the Central African Republic, South Sudan and Burundi have the lowest scores in the HDI's measurement of national achievements in health, education and income.

3. Which country is host to the World chefs' congress 2018?

Ans: India

- ✓ The first edition of the World Heritage Cuisine Summit and food festival will be held at the Qila Gobindgarh in Amritsar, Punjab from October 12-14. It will be organised by the World Cultural Culinary Heritage Committee, under the aegis of the World Association of Chefs' Societies (World Chefs). The summit, hosted by the Indian Federation of Culinary Associations.

4. The Delhi government has signed a “Friendship and Cooperation Agreement” with which city to share expertise on 12 fields?

Ans: Seoul

- ✓ The Delhi government has signed a “Friendship and Cooperation Agreement” with the Seoul Metropolitan Government under which the two cities would exchange expertise for betterment in 12 fields including environment, transport, tourism, solid waste management and public health.
- ✓ As per the MoU, the Delhi government will solicit support of its Urban Development Department and other departments for implementing all the relevant aspects of the agreement. It also requires the Delhi government to set up and operationalise a ‘Twinning Cell’ at the Urban Development Department and a committee to support the cell.
- ✓ Besides, it will support activity related workshops, conduct community participation activities, and maintain documentation. The ‘Twinning Agreement’ will remain in force till three years from September 14, 2018.

5. Indian Coast Guard has recently commissioned which indigenously built patrol vessel?

Ans: Vijaya

- ✓ The Indian Coast Guard has commissioned indigenously built patrol vessel ‘Vijaya’ in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. It is capable of carrying limited pollution response equipment to contain oil spill in sea. The 98-metre Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) was designed and built by Larsen & Toubro India at Kattupalli shipyard and is fitted with advanced navigation and communication equipment, sensors and machinery.
- ✓ The ship is designed to carry one twin engine helicopter and four high speed boats, including two inflatable boats for boarding, search and rescue, law enforcement and maritime patrol operations. The vessel is fitted with a 30 mm gun and will be fitted with a 12.7 mm gun with a Fire Control System (FCS). It will be based at Paradip Port, Odisha and be deployed in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) for surveillance and other duties.

6. Which is the India’s first underwater robotic drone?

Ans: EyeROV TUNA

- ✓ India’s first underwater robotic drone “EyeROV TUNA” was launched and handed over to Kochi-based DRDO lab “Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL)”. The drone can send real-time videos of ships and other underwater structures to help with their repair and maintenance.
- ✓ It will be used by NPOL for research and development activities which in turn would result in a commercial product for defence purposes. The robotic drone can be navigated up to a depth of 50 meters to take real-time HD video images to examine ship hulls or undersea cables or bridge moorings and can eliminate the need for costlier and riskier manual inspection by divers.

- ✓ The first commercial Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV)/underwater drone “EYEROVTUNA” was developed by EyeROV Technologies, a company incubating at the Kalamassery-based Maker Village which is said to be the largest hardware incubator in the country.

7. The first lion safari of Rajasthan has come up at which of the following parks?

Ans: Nahargarh Biological Park

- ✓ The Rajasthan government has recently inaugurated the first lion safari of the state at Nahargarh Biological Park (NBP), which is located about 12 km from Jaipur on the Jaipur-Delhi highway. The visitors will be able to see lions in their natural habitat in the park spanning 38 hectares and enclosed by a fence. The Safari will be thrown open for the tourists from October 2018.

8. The scientists at which central research institute have developed India’s first indigenous anti-nuclear medical kit?

Ans: Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences

- ✓ The scientist at INMAS claim to have developed India’s first indigenous medical kit that may ensure protection from serious injuries and faster healing of wounds resulting from nuclear warfare or radioactive leakage. The medical kit has been developed for the armed, paramilitary and police forces only as they are the first ones likely to get exposed to radiation.
- ✓ It has over 25 items, including radio-protectors that provide 80-90% protection against radiation and nerve gas agents, bandages that absorb radiation as well as tablets and ointments. The kit also has an Ethylene Di-amine Tetra acetic acid (EDTA) injection that traps uranium in the guts and blood of victims during a nuclear accident or warfare.
- ✓ The kit also has Ca-EDTA Respiratory Fluid, which is the inhalation formula for chelation, or grabbing, of heavy metals and radioactive elements deposited in lungs through inhalation at nuclear accident sites. The medicine reduces the body burden of radioactivity by 30-40% in controlled conditions and is highly useful for the rescue teams and victims after a nuclear accident. The acronym “INMAS” stands for “Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences”.

9. What is the theme of the 2018 International Day of Democracy?

Ans: Democracy under Strain: Solutions for a Changing World

- ✓ The International Day of Democracy is observed every year on September 15 to highlight the values of freedom and respect for human rights as essential elements of democracy. It is an opportunity to look for ways to invigorate democracy and seek answers to the systemic challenges it faces.
- ✓ This includes tackling economic and political inequalities, making democracies more inclusive by bringing the young and marginalized into the political system, and making democracies more innovative and responsive to emerging challenges such as migration and climate change. The 2018 theme is “Democracy under Strain: Solutions for a Changing World”.

10. National Engineer's Day is celebrated in India on which date?

Ans: September 15

- ✓ The National Engineer's Day (NED) is celebrated every year on September 15 in India to appreciate the contributions of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, who was born on this day in 1861 in a village called Muddenahalli in Karnataka.
 - ✓ He patented and installed an irrigation system with water floodgates at the Khadakvasla reservoir near Pune to raise the flood supply level of storage in the reservoir to the highest level. This was also installed at Gwalior's Tigra Dam and Mysuru's Krishnaraja Sagara (KRS) dam, the latter of which created one of the largest reservoirs in Asia at the time.
 - ✓ According to the Institution of Engineers India (IEI), he was not only known for his contributions in the field of engineering but was also called the "precursor of economic planning in India". The 2018 theme is "Engineering Challenges for Knowledge Era".
-

CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. India's first exclusive dog park has come up in which city?

Ans: Hyderabad

- ✓ India's first exclusive and certified 'Dog Park' has come up in Hyderabad, which is spread over 1.3 acres. The park has been developed by the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) at a cost of Rs. 1.1 crore on a site which was earlier a dump yard.
- ✓ The park has dog training and exercise equipment, splash pool, two lawns, an amphitheatre, separate enclosures for big and small dogs among other facilities. According to a survey, there are about 2.5 lakh pet owners in the West Zone and the Central Zone limits of the city which are nearer to the park. The park is certified by Kennel Club of India and would be inaugurated within 10 days.

2. The Ministry of Tourism is organizing the festival of tourism "Paryatan Parv 2018" from which city?

Ans: New Delhi

- ✓ The Ministry of Tourism is organizing the festival of tourism "Paryatan Parv 2018" in collaboration with other Central Ministries, State Governments and Stakeholders at Rajpath Lawns in New Delhi from September 17 and will continue across the country till 27th of this month.
- ✓ The idea behind the festival is to draw focus on the benefits of tourism, showcasing the cultural diversity of the country and reinforcing the principle of Tourism for All. The 2nd edition of Paryatan Parv will have three main components- Dekho Apna Desh, Tourism for All and Tourism and Governance. The 18 theme-based pavilions have been set up by the states. More than 3000 events'll be organized in collaboration with other Central Ministries and States during the festival.

3. Which is the highest volcanic peak of Asia?

Ans: Mount Damavand

- ✓ Recently, Indian Mountaineers Satyarup Siddhanta and Mousumi Khatua created history by climbing Asia's highest volcanic peak Mount Damavand in Iran. The expedition team comprised of 3 members – Siddhanta, Mousumi and Bhaswati Chatterjee. According to a release, the trio left for Iran on 6th September 2018, the team had to scale the summit within a very short span of time to avoid the Sulphur exposure related hazards.
- ✓ Mountain Damavand is known for its Sulphur discharge near its peak which can cause irreparable damage if exposed for a longer duration. This is the 4th volcanic summit for Siddhanta. Now, he is targeting scaling three more volcanic peaks by January 2019.
- ✓ He is now in the last lap of climbing the highest volcanoes of each of the continents known as climbing the 7 volcanic summits. If successful, Siddhanta will be the youngest person to complete

all the 7 volcanic summits – Mount Sidley, Mount Giluwe, Mount Damavand, Pico de Orizaba, Mount Elbrus, Mount Kilimanjaro and Ojos Del Salado.

4. Who will be honoured with Meera Puruskar by Rajasthan Sahitya Academy?

Ans: Sawai Singh Shekhawat

- ✓ Sawai Singh Shekhawat, the Jaipur-based poet and writer, will be honoured with Meera Puruskar by Rajasthan Sahitya Academy for his contribution to Hindi literature.
- ✓ The award function will be held in October 2018. He has published seven books of poetry and his first Rajasthani story “Koonpal” was translated in Hindi, Telugu & Dogari. He served as Editor for Bakhat and Rajasthan Vikas magazines.

5. Who has been sworn-in as the new Prime Minister of Sudan ?

Ans: Moutaz Mousa Abdallah

- ✓ Moutaz Mousa Abdallah has been sworn-in as the new Prime Minister of Sudan at the presidential palace in Khartoum on September 15, 2018. Mousa Abdallah is also holding the finance portfolio in a bid to revive the country’s ailing economy. He succeeded Bakri Hassan Saleh, who will retain the post of first vice president.
- ✓ Sudan has been grappling with an acute foreign exchange shortage and inflation above 65% for several months, which prompted President Omar al-Bashir to sack the previous cabinet to fix the situation.

6. Which launch vehicle of ISRO has successfully launched NovaSAR and S1-4 earth observation satellites of U.K from Sriharikota spaceport?

Ans: PSLV – C42

- ✓ On September 16, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched the NovaSAR and S1-4 earth observation satellites of U.K from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-C42 (PSLV) injected the satellites into orbit 17 minutes and 45 seconds after lift off and placed them in a sun synchronous orbit at a height of 583 km from the earth. The satellites, both weighing 889 kg, have been developed by UK-based Surrey Satellite Technologies Ltd (SSTL).
- ✓ NovaSAR is intended to be used for forest mapping, land use and ice cover monitoring, flood & disaster monitoring. On the other hand, S1-4 will be used for surveying resources, environment monitoring, urban management and disaster monitoring. The mission is a commercial arrangement between the company and Antrix Corporation Limited, which is the commercial wing of ISRO. This was the 44th flight of the PSLV.

7. Which state Tourism bagged two Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) gold awards 2018 for its innovative marketing campaigns?

Ans: Kerala

- ✓ The Kerala Tourism has bagged two prestigious gold awards of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) for its innovative marketing campaigns at Langkawi, Malaysia during PATA Travel Mart 2018. The Kerala Tourism got the first gold for its 'Yalla Kerala' travel advertisement print media campaign in the Gulf countries. It showcased the state's greenery and backwaters.
- ✓ The 2nd gold award came for an innovative poster that Kerala Tourism had developed for the 3rd edition of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale (KMB), the biggest contemporary art show in South Asia. The poster featured a colourful boat & fishermen and could be put up straight as well as upside down. The Campaign and Posters were developed and designed by Stark Communications, the Advertising Agency of Kerala Tourism.
- ✓ The PATA Awards are presented to outstanding entries in four principal categories: Marketing; Education and Training; Environment, and Heritage and Culture.

8. Which country's team has lifted the 2018 South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Cup?

Ans: Maldives

- ✓ Maldives national football team has lifted the 12th edition of men's South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Cup at the Bangabandhu Stadium in Dhaka on September 15, 2018. In the final, they defeated defending champions India 2-1.
- ✓ The win for Maldives comes 10 years after their first SAFF Cup title in 2008. 7-time champions India had started as favourites in the summit clash. The Indian team, comprising mostly under-23 players, was the only unbeaten side in the tournament.

9. ISRO has recently launched Polarimetry Doppler Weather Radar of which frequency band at Sriharikota spaceport?

Ans: S-band

- ✓ ISRO chairman Dr. K Sivan has launched an S-band Polarimetry Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) at Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota spaceport, Andhra Pradesh on September 16, 2018. This Radar was indigenously developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Bangalore under Technology Transfer from ISRO.
- ✓ This is the 7th Radar manufactured in the country under "Make in India" Concept. The Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) is used for the observation of the weather system up to a range of 500 km and helps in early warning of severe weather events.

- ✓ The DWR provides detailed information on a storm's internal wind flow and structure, while conventional radars are able to track and predict cyclones. The polarimetric capability of the DWR will significantly improve the accuracy of rainfall estimation leading to accurate and timely flash flood warnings.

10. Former Asian Games champion Ganpatrao Andalka was associated to which sports, who passed away recently?

Ans: Wrestling

- ✓ Ganpatrao Andalka (83), the former Asian Games champion wrestler, has passed away in Pune, Maharashtra on September 17, 2018. Andalkar, who took part in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, had bagged the coveted "Hind Kesari" title in 1960. He was also a recipient of the Arjuna award (1964) and the Maharashtra government's 'Shiv Chhatrapati Award' in 1982 for his contribution to wrestling.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. India's first 'smart fence' pilot project has been launched along which border?

Ans: Pakistan Border

- ✓ India's first 'smart fence' pilot project was launched by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh along the Indo-Pak border at the BSF Headquarters in Ploura, Jammu on September 18, 2018. The purpose of the project is to make security system more strong and effective. The smart fencing uses a number of devices for surveillance, communication and data storage.
- ✓ The pilot project entails deploying laser-activated fences and technology-enabled barriers to plug vulnerable gaps along frontiers. The system provides for round-the-clock surveillance on the border and in different weather conditions be it dust storm, fog or rain.
- ✓ The initiative is part of the Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS) proposed to be deployed at these two borders by the Government of India (GoI) as part of its decision to completely seal the two borders to stop infiltration and illegal migration.

2. Which Indian personality has been inducted into the board of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)?

Ans: S.Jaishankar

- ✓ Dr. Subramanya Jaishankar, the former foreign secretary of India, has joined the board of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF). Currently, he is the president of Global Corporate Affairs for the Tata Group. USISPF is a forum founded with the objective of promoting a strategic relationship between the US and India. The headquarters of USISPF is located at Washington.

3. Which state government has launched 'Star-Rating' system for industries to check air pollution?

Ans: Odisha

- ✓ The Odisha government has launched a 'Star-Rating' system for industries to check air pollution. It's a first-of-its-kind initiative in the state to ensure transparency in compliance to pollution standards. The initiative will help public find out whether industries in their vicinity are fair in their environmental compliance.
- ✓ It will also recognise the efforts of industries that take responsibility to maintain clean environment. The system will rate industries from 1 – 5 based on their efforts to meet the standards set by Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB). It will be implemented with the help of Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC India) researchers and Tata Centre for Development at Chicago (TCD) in a phased manner.

4. The Government of India has proposed to merge which of the following banks to create India's third largest lender?

Ans: Vijaya Bank, Dena Bank and Bank of Baroda

- ✓ The Government of India has proposed to merge state-owned Vijaya Bank, Dena Bank and Bank of Baroda (BoB) to create India's third largest lender as parts of reforms in the public sector banking segment. The decision was taken at the meeting of a ministerial panel headed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley which oversees merger proposals of state-owned banks.
- ✓ One of the reasons behind the choice of these banks was perhaps the fact that all three use the same core banking system—Finacle from Infosys—making the task of merging the technology platforms and back-ends relatively easier.
- ✓ The combined lending entity will have a strong presence across the nation with more than 34% of low-cost deposits, a capital buffer of nearly 12% and a business book of Rs 14.82 lakh crore. Bank of Baroda is the biggest of the three with Rs 10.29 lakh crore of total business, followed by Vijaya Bank at Rs 2.79 lakh crore and Dena Bank at Rs 1.72 lakh crore.

5. Which country has rolled out world's first hydrogen-powered train?

Ans: Germany

- ✓ Germany has recently rolled out the world's first hydrogen-powered trains that only emit steam and water. These bright blue Coradia iLint trains are built by French TGV-maker Alstom, which are costlier than diesel powered trains but eco-friendly.
- ✓ The new trains are equipped with a hydrogen tank and fuel cells on the roof and will produce electricity by combining water and hydrogen. The company revealed that the excess energy produced will be stored in ion-lithium batteries. The green trains can travel 600 miles (1,000km) on a single tank of hydrogen, similar to the range of diesel trains.
- ✓ The two Coradia iLint trains will replace conventional diesel engines on the 100 km route that links German towns- Cuxhaven and Buxtehude. Germany will introduce 14 other hydrogen train in the Lower Saxony region of the country by 2021.

6. What is the India's rank on family-owned business list, as per recent published report of Credit Suisse Research Institute (CSRI)?

Ans: 3rd

- ✓ According to the 'Credit Suisse Family 1000 in 2018' report, India has been ranked third globally in terms of number of family-owned businesses with 111 companies having a total market capitalisation of \$839 billion. Indian family-owned companies generated a 13.9% annual average share price return since 2006, compared to 6% recorded by their non-family-owned peers.

- ✓ The report is published by the Credit Suisse Research Institute (CSRI). The list is topped by China, followed by United States. As per report, in terms of number of family-owned businesses within the non-Japan Asian region, the list is dominated by China, India and Hong Kong.

7. Who is the author of the book “Kashi: Secret of the Black Temple”?

Ans: Vineet Bajpai

- ✓ The third and final book of Vineet Bajpai’s Harappa trilogy “Kashi: Secret of the Black Temple” has recently launched in New Delhi. The book tells an intriguing story of a lost civilisation. The first two books are “Harappa: Curse of the Blood River” and “Pralay: The Great Deluge”.

8. First international maqom musical was held in:

Ans: Uzbekistan

- ✓ The first international maqom musical was held in Uzbekistan. The festival was initiated by President Shavkat Mirizoyev to promote the Uzbek national maqom art at home and abroad.

9. What is the theme of the 2018 International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer?

Ans: Keep Cool and Carry On: The Montreal Protocol

- ✓ The International Day for the preservation of the Ozone Layer is observed every year on September 16 to commemorate the date of signing of the Montreal Protocol in 1987 on substances that deplete the Ozone layer. It is mainly intended to spread awareness of the depletion of the Ozone Layer and search for solutions to preserve it.
- ✓ The 2018 theme is ‘Keep Cool and Carry On: The Montreal Protocol’. The Ozone layer is a fragile shield of gas that protects the Earth from the harmful ultraviolet radiation of the sun and thus helps in preserving life on the planet. Substances like Chlorofluorocarbons, halons, Carbon tetra chloride are responsible for ozone layer depletion.

10. Mt Everest Friendship Exercise is the name of military exercise between:

Ans: Nepal and China

- ✓ The 2nd edition of the Nepal-China joint military exercise “Mt Everest Friendship Exercise (or Sagarmatha Friendship-2018” has started at Chengdu, the capital of China’s southwestern Sichuan Province, from September 17.
- ✓ The aim of the 10-day exercise is to share expertise in disaster management and to fight terrorism, among others. This comes at a time when Nepal refuses to participate in the first-ever BIMSTEC military exercise “MILEX-18”, which has started in India from September 10.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. What is the purpose of recently launched 'e-Sahaj' portal?

Ans: Security clearance to businesses

- ✓ Recently, the Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba has launched an online 'e-Sahaj' portal for grant of security clearance to businesses. The portal will facilitate an applicant to submit application online and also to view the status of his application from time to time.
- ✓ The Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal authority for granting security clearances in certain sensitive sectors before issue of licence/permit, contract etc, to companies by the administrative Ministry. The purpose of national security clearance is to evaluate potential security threats, including economic threats, and provide risk assessment before clearing investment and project proposals in key sectors.

2. Which state government has rolled out "Swayangsiddha" to combat human trafficking?

Ans: West Bengal

- ✓ The West Bengal government has rolled out a scheme "Swayangsiddha" in different districts of the state to combat human trafficking. The aim of the scheme is to empower young boys and girls to make informed choices so that they are less vulnerable to trafficking and child marriage.
- ✓ Swayangsiddha, which means self-reliance, will be executed by the West Bengal Police. As the per the NCRB data West Bengal has highest recorded case of trafficking among the States.

3. India has launched Green Agriculture project along with which international organisation to bring transformative change in the farm sector?

Ans: FAO

- ✓ In New Delhi, the Government of India along with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has recently launched the Green Agriculture project that seeks to bring transformative change in the farm sector through conservation of biodiversity and forest landscapes.
- ✓ The \$33.5 million project is being funded by Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by GoI's Agriculture and Environment ministries, and FAO. It will be implemented in five states viz. Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.

4. Which is the world's first country to develop document on Cooling Action Plan (CAP)?

Ans: India

- ✓ On 2018 World Ozone Day, the Union Environment Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan released a draft India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP) and a booklet on 'Montreal Protocol – India's Success Story'. With this, India has become the world's first country to develop such a document (ICAP), which addresses cooling requirement across sectors and lists out actions which can help reduce the cooling demand. This will help in reducing both direct and indirect emissions.
- ✓ The thrust of the ICAP is to look for synergies in actions for securing both environmental and socio-economic benefits. The overarching goal of ICAP is to provide sustainable cooling and thermal comfort for all while securing environmental and socio-economic benefits for the society.
- ✓ The Montreal Protocol is the only environmental treaty, which enjoys universal ratification of 197 UN members countries, to protect the stratospheric ozone layer by phasing out the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances (ODS).

5. Who has/have been signed as ambassador(s) of Skill India Campaign?

Ans: Varun Dhawan and Anushka Sharma

- ✓ Bollywood actors Varun Dhawan and Anushka Sharma have been signed as ambassadors of Skill India Campaign to promote and endorse the Skill India Mission. The actors will next be seen in "Sui Dhaaga – Made in India", which highlights the untapped potential of India's talented craftsmen and skilled workers at the grassroot level and the challenges and issues faced by them.
- ✓ Varun plays a tailor named Mauji and Anushka essays the role of his wife and embroiderer Mamta. The film, which is directed by Sharat Katariya, hit the theatres on Sept 28. The Skill India Mission was launched by PM Modi on July 2015 to train over 40 crore people in different skills by 2022.
- ✓ It includes various initiatives of the government like "National Skill Development Mission", "National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship 2015", "Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)" and the "Skill Loan scheme".

6. ISRO has recently launched its first Space Technology Incubation Centre in which state?

Ans: Tripura

- ✓ ISRO has recently launched its first Space Technology Incubation Centre at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Agartala via remote from Bengaluru. It was jointly launched by ISRO Chairman Dr. KV Sivan and Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb. The incubation centre was launched at the 1st edition of 'Spacetrionics' organised by the India Electronics and Semiconductor Association.
- ✓ Through such incubation centres, ISRO is looking to incubate start-ups that would build applications. Within the next 6 months, ISRO plans to set up five more space technology incubation

centres at Jalandhar in Punjab, Bhubaneswar in Odisha, Nagpur in Maharashtra, Indore in Madhya Pradesh and Tiruchirapalli in Tamil Nadu. Each centre will be set up at a cost of Rs 2 crore.

7. Which country is host to the 2018 Track Asia Cup cycling tournament?

Ans: India

- ✓ The 5th edition of the Track Asia Cup cycling will be held at the Indira Gandhi Cycling Velodrome in New Delhi from September 21-23, 2018. This was recently announced by the Cycling Federation of India (CFI). The event also serves as a qualifying tournament for the World Cup, World Championship and the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
- ✓ The tournament which is a UCI (International Cycle Union) class I accredited event will see participation from about 150 cyclists across from across Asia and Australia. India will field a 17-member team comprising senior and junior cyclists.
- ✓ The junior team will be led by Esow Alben, who is currently the top ranked individual in the Kierin event in the UCI world rankings. Esow had won three gold medals in the Asian Track Cycling Championship, the only male cyclist to achieve the feat in the event, held in Malaysia in Feb 2018.

8. India has signed a \$74 million loan pact with which international organisation for Uttarakhand Workforce Development Project (UKWDP)?

Ans: World Bank

- ✓ India has signed a financing loan agreement with the World Bank for \$74 million for Uttarakhand Workforce Development Project (UKWDP). The purpose of the project is to improve the quality and relevance of training at priority Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and to increase the number of labour-market-relevant workers through short-term training in Uttarakhand.
- ✓ The project has 3 components — improving the quality and relevance of ITI training; increasing the number of skilled workers certified under National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF); and policy and institutional development and project management. The project has a 5-year grace period & a maturity of 17 years. The closing date for the project is June 2023.

9. Who was the India's first woman IAS officer post-Independence, who passed away recently?

Ans: Anna Rajam Malhotra

- ✓ Anna Rajam Malhotra (91) was the India's first woman IAS officer after Independence, who passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra on September 17, 2018. Born in July 1927 in Kerala's Ernakulam district, she joined the civil services in 1951 and had served in the Madras cadre under then CM C Rajagopalachari and in the central government.

- ✓ Besides serving under Rajagopalachari, she had worked closely with Rajiv Gandhi when he was in charge of the 1982 Asian Games in Delhi. She had also accompanied late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on many state trips.
- ✓ She married RN Malhotra, who had served as the Governor of RBI between 1985 and 1990. Anna, who retired in 1996, was also responsible for building the country's first computerised port Nhavasheva in Mumbai. In 1989, she was honoured with the Padma Bhushan award.

10. Who has been appointed new Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission (AEC)?

Ans: Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas

- ✓ Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas, the renowned nuclear scientist, has been appointed as the new Secretary of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), and Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) till May 3, 2021. He succeeded Shekhar Basu. At present, Vyas is the Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai. The DAE is under the direct charge of the Prime Minister.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. Which Bollywood personality has been bestowed with Smita Patil Memorial Award 2018?

Ans: Anushka Sharma

- ✓ Anushka Sharma has been bestowed with the prestigious Smita Patil Memorial Award 2018 at the 34th edition of Priyadarshni Academy's Global Awards in Mumbai, Maharashtra on September 19. The Priyadarshni Academy is a non-profit, socio-cultural and educational organization.

2. Which of the following global financial institution provides financial support for Dam rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP)?

Ans: World Bank

- ✓ On September 19, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved Revised Cost Estimate (RCE) of Dam rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) at the revised cost of Rs 3466 crore with the financial assistance of the World Bank to improve safety and operational performance of 198 Dams.
- ✓ The project aims at comprehensive rehabilitation of 198 existing dam projects located in 7 states of India viz. Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand. Out of Rs.3,466 crore, Rs.2,628 crore will be funded by the World Bank and Rs.747 crore will be funded by DRIP States / Implementing Agencies (IAs) and balance Rs.91 crore to be funded by Central Water Commission (CWC). The CCEA also gave its ex-post facto approval for two-year time extension from 1st July, 2018 to 30th June, 2020.

3. According to Mercom India Research, what is the current total installed capacity of solar power generation of India?

Ans: 25GW

- ✓ According to Mercom India Research, the total installed capacity of solar power generation of India has crossed 25 giga watts (GV). This includes both large-scale and rooftop solar. The utility-scale solar PV projects in India accounts for over 22.5 GW of installed capacity & the rooftop solar projects account for over 2.4 GW as of date.
- ✓ Karnataka is the top solar state of India followed by Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Rajasthan. Mercom India Research forecasts solar installations of approximately 8.3 GW in CY 2018. Out of this, over 5 GW of solar projects have been installed in the first half of the year. Installation rates are forecasted to decline in the second half due to lack of a strong project pipeline.
- ✓ The solar installations in 2019 are also expected to be flat as longer commissioning timeline will push approximately 1.3 GW of large-scale projects from 2019 to 2020.

4. Exercise Aviaindra 18 has started between which of the following countries?

Ans: India and Russia

- ✓ The joint air tactical exercise “Aviaindra-18” has started between Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Air Force of the Russian Federation at Lipetsk, Russia from September 17 to 28. The second session of Aviaindra 18 would be conducted in Jodhpur, India from December 10 Dec to 22. The aim of the exercise is focused towards anti-terrorist operations in a bi-lateral scenario.
- ✓ The exercise would further enhance the co-operation and understanding each other’s Concept of Operations. Exercise Aviaindra is an Air Force level exercise between India and the Russian Federation. First Aviaindra was conducted in 2014 and has been planned as a bi-annual exercise.

5. After India puts four more reactors under IAEA safeguards, what will be the total number of nuclear facilities under the international nuclear energy watchdog?

Ans: 26

- ✓ India has decided to place four more reactors under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. Accordingly, two Russian-designed Pressurised Light Water Reactors and two Pressurised Heavy Reactors being built with Indian technology will be covered. With this, a total of 26 Indian nuclear facilities will be under the international nuclear energy watchdog IAEA.
- ✓ This was stated by Sekhar Basu, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy, at the 62nd General Conference of IAEA Vienna, Austria, on 19th Sept 2018.

6. The Jharsuguda airport is located in which state?

Ans: Odisha

- ✓ The Odisha Assembly has recently passed a unanimous resolution to name the newly-built Jharsuguda airport after noted freedom fighter Veer Surendra Sai. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to inaugurate the airport on 22 September 2018. Jharsuguda airport will be the 2nd operational airport in Odisha after Biju Patnaik International airport in Bhubaneswar.
- ✓ Veer Surendra Sai, who was born on Jan 1809 in Sambalpur district of the State, had sacrificed his life fighting against British East India Company. Surendra died in Asirgarh Jail on 23rd May 1884.

7. The women crew of which Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) has bagged the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure award 2018?

Ans: INSV Tarini

- ✓ All-women crew of INSV Tarini has bagged the prestigious Tenzing Norgay National Adventure award for beating the odds in water with their enduring skills and sailing across the world for 8 long months. The award ceremony will be held at Rashtrapati Bhawan on September 25.

- ✓ The award is the highest national recognition for outstanding achievements in the field of adventure on land, sea and air. The women Navy officers had spent as many as 194 days at sea as part of a mission under the Navika Sagar Parikrama project that began in September 2017. The crew was also bestowed with Nav Sena Medal on the occasion of 72nd Independence Day.
- ✓ The team had arrived in Panaji, Goa on May 21 after successfully circumnavigating the globe for 8 months. The INSV Tarini team, led by Lt. Commander Vartika Joshi, is comprised Lt. P. Swathi, Lt. Pratibha Jamwal, Lt. Vijaya Devi, Sub Lt. Payal Gupta and Lt. B Aishwarya.

8. Dolagobinda Pradhan, the veteran freedom fighter has passed away recently. He was from which state?

Ans: Odisha

- ✓ Dolagobinda Pradhan (93), the veteran freedom fighter and former Odisha Minister, has passed away in Bhubaneswar on September 17, 2018.

9. Who has been appointed new Chairman of the standing committee on Defence?

Ans: Kalraj Mishra

- ✓ In the latest round of reshuffle of Parliamentary panels, the former Union Minister Kalraj Mishra has been appointed new Chairman of the standing committee on Defence. He succeeded B.C. Khanduri, who has been delivering a series of critical reports on the defence preparedness and slammed the government for critical low stock of armaments. In the latest 2018 March report of Khanduri, it was pointed that 68% of equipment with the armed forces was in the vintage category.
- ✓ Apart from this, Chintamani Malviya has been appointed new Chairman of Coal and Steel panel. There are no changes in Finance Committee and External Affairs Committee, both headed by Congress leaders. Finance Committee is headed by Veerappa Moily. The External Affairs Committee is headed by Congress leader Shashi Tharoor.

10. Who has been appointed new secretary of Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)?

Ans: Anindo Majumdar

- ✓ Anindo Majumdar, a 1985-batch IAS officer Arunachal Pradesh, Goa and Mizoram has been appointed as the new Secretary of Central Vigilance Commission. Prior to this post, he was financial Commissioner of Delhi. Before Delhi, he was the Chief Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ✓ The CVC is an apex governmental body created in 1964 to address governmental corruption. It has the status of an autonomous body, free of control from any executive authority, charged with monitoring all vigilance activity under the Central Govt of India, advising various authorities in central Govt organizations in planning, executing, reviewing and reforming their vigilance work.