

## 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 62<sup>nd</sup> 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.