

**February
2019**

WINMEEN.COM

First Week Current Affairs

1st Feb - 7th Feb



www.winmeen.com

Winmeen Daily Current Affairs

1. Which international organization has officially launched the International Year of the Period Table of Chemical Elements (IYPT-2019)?

[A] UNESCO

[B] UNIDO

[C] FAO

[D] ITU

- ✓ On January 29, UNESCO official launched the International Year of the Period Table of Chemical Elements (IYPT-2019) at its headquarters in Paris to raise awareness of chemistry and its applications for sustainable development.
- ✓ The year 2019 also marks the 150th anniversary of its creation by Russian scientist Dmitry Ivanovich Mendeleev. The aim of the year-long celebration is to recognize the importance of the periodic table as one of the most important and influential achievements in modern science, reflecting the essence not only of chemistry, but also of physics, biology and other basic sciences disciplines.
- ✓ The Periodic Table of Chemical Elements is a unique tool that enables scientist to predict the appearance and properties of matter on the Earth and in the rest of the Universe.

2. Who has been elected as the new chairman of Broadcast Audience Research Council of India (BARC)?

[A] Nakul Chopra

[B] Partho Dasgupta

[C] Punit Goenka

[D] Milan Sharma

- ✓ Punit Goenka, MD and CEO of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEEL), has been elected as the new chairman of Broadcast Audience Research Council of India (BARC).
- ✓ He succeeded Nakul Chopra. It may be recalled that Goenka was the founder chairman of BARC India and played an instrumental role in setting up of the TV Viewership measurement company. It was under

his leadership that BARC India established its measurement system.

- ✓ BARC India is a joint industry company founded by stakeholder bodies that represent Broadcasters, Advertisers and Advertising & Media Agencies. Its headquarters is located in Mumbai.

3. Which of the following countries have launched a common digital currency "Aber"?

[A] Germany and France

[B] Japan and South Korea

[C] China and North Korea

[D] UAE and Saudi Arabia

- ✓ The central banks of the UAE and Saudi Arabia have launched a common digital currency called "Aber", which will be used in financial settlements between the two countries through Blockchains and Distributed Ledgers technologies.
- ✓ It will establish an additional means for the central financial transfer systems of the two countries and enable banks to directly deal with each other in conducting financial remittances.
- ✓ Through this digital currency, both the United Arab Emirates Central Bank (UAE CB) and the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority (SAMA) are studying the impact on the improvement and reduction of remittance costs and the assessments of risks.

4. The Africa Centre for Climate and Sustainable Development has recently launched in which of the following countries?

[A] South Africa

[B] Italy

[C] Netherlands

[D] Brazil

- ✓ In Rome, Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte has recently launched the new 'Africa Centre for Climate and Sustainable Development' in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and FAO to fight climate change and boost sustainable development in Africa.

- ✓ The centre will provide a fast-track, demand-driven mechanism for African countries to access grant resources that support policies, initiatives, and best practices on climate change, food security, access to water, clean energy, and accelerating progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa. The Africa Centre has its roots in a declaration endorsed by the G7 meeting of the Environment Ministers in 2017.
- ✓ The new centre is established to facilitate coordination among the G7 and African countries on common initiatives in Africa to develop and scale-up innovative solutions for sustainable development, and to achieve the goals set by the 2015 Paris Agreement and the UN's 2030 Agenda.

5. What is the India's rank at the 2018 Corruption Perception Index (CPI) of Transparency International (TI)?

[A] 78th

[B] 81st

[C] 62nd

[D] 54th

Global watchdog Transparency International (TI) has recently released 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), which ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and business people.

The index uses a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean. Here, India has improved its ranking and jumped three positions to 78th with a CPI score of 41 at the 2018 index.

Denmark has topped the index with 88 points, followed by New Zealand (with 87 points) and Finland with 85. Sudan was the worst with a score of 10 points, while Somalia and Syria followed it up with 13 points each.

- ✓ Overall, more than two-thirds of countries score below 50 in the 2018 CPI, with an average score of only 43. The 2018 index revealed that the continued failure of most countries to significantly control corruption is contributing to a crisis in democracy around the world. While there are exceptions, the data shows that despite some progress, most

countries are failing to make serious inroads against corruption.

6. Who has become the fastest Indian bowler to reach 100 ODI wickets?

[A] Yuzvendra Chahal

[B] Kuldeep Yadav

[C] Kedar Jadhav

[D] Mohammed Shami

- ✓ Mohammed Shami has become the fastest Indian bowler to claim 100 ODI wickets, during the first ODI against New Zealand at McLean Park in Napier on 23rd January 2019. Shami reached the milestone in his 56th match, with the wicket of opener Martin Gupthill.
- ✓ Before Shami, Irfan Pathan reached the 100-wicket mark in 59 ODIs, while Zaheer Khan (65 matches), Ajit Agarkar (67) and Javagal Srinath (68) are the other Indian bowlers to complete a century of wickets in the quickest time.
- ✓ The world record is currently held by Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan, who took 44 matches to reach the mark and broke the record of 52 matches, set by Mitchell Starc of Australia.

7. India's second Tulip Garden will come up in which of the following states?

[A] Nagaland

[B] Jharkhand

[C] Uttarakhand

[D] Sikkim

- ✓ After Srinagar (J&K), India's second Tulip Garden will come up at Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand over 50 hectares of forest land near Chandak hill top at a cost of Rs 50 crore.
- ✓ The proposed tulip garden will be developed by the ONGC under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme. Tulip is the flower from Holland that blooms from mid March to May.
- ✓ The site in Mad village near Chandak hilltop for the garden has been selected under the state

Government's '13 districts, 13 new destinations' scheme to attract more tourists to the district.

- ✓ According to the project officer of the scheme the land available for the project in Chandak hill top is ideal for the growth of the flower as it is situated at a height of 1,950 metres from the sea surface and remains sunny and cold throughout the year. Tulip is the flower from Holland that blooms from mid March to May.

8. Dara Dotiwalla, who passed away recently, was associated with which sports?

[A] Cricket

[B] Badminton

[C] Tennis

[D] Football

- ✓ Former Indian umpire Dara Dotiwalla (85), who officiated in the famous tied Test match in Chennai between India and Australia in 1986, has passed away in Mumbai on January 30, 2019. Born on 30th October 1933, Dotiwalla had officiated in six Test matches from 1982 to 1987, including the tied Test between India and Australia at the M A Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai.
- ✓ He had also officiated in eight One Day Internationals (ODIs) from 1982 to 1988. He is best remembered for officiating the Chennai Tied Test of 1986 along with V Vikramraju. The match is the only the second tied Test in cricket history, and ended with Vikramraju controversially adjudging India's No. 11 Maninder Singh lbw to Greg Matthews.
- ✓ Dotiwalla's first ODI as an umpire was the fixture between India and Sri Lanka in Bengaluru in 1982, while his last one was India versus New Zealand in 1988 in Cuttack. The Delhi Test between India and West Indies in 1987 was his last assignment as a Test umpire.

9. Which Indian personality has received Carnot Prize for Power Reforms, Rural Electrification?

[A] Mukesh Ambani

[B] Piyush Goyal

[C] Birender Singh Chaudhary

[D] Ratan Tata

- ✓ Union Finance Minister Piyush Goyal has been awarded the Carnot prize for his contribution towards sustainable energy solutions by the team of University of Pennsylvania on January 30.
- ✓ The award recognizes Goyal's tenure as minister of power in which he is credited to have reformed the electricity sector and extended access to electricity to 18,000 villages, as documented by the International Energy Agency (IEA).
- ✓ He was to be awarded the prize by the Kleinman Center for Energy Policy at the University Of Pennsylvania School Of Design in October 2018. But, he had to skip the event because of the Amritsar tragedy in which over 60 people died after being mowed down by a train.

10. India's flagship hydrocarbon international conference 'PETROTECH-2019' is scheduled to be held in which of the following cities?

[A] Pune

[B] Kolkata

[C] Greater Noida

[D] Hyderabad

- ✓ The 13th International Oil & Gas Conference & Exhibition 'PETROTECH-2019' is being organised under the aegis of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas in Greater Noida from 10th to 12th February, 2019. India's flagship hydrocarbon international conference is expected to be inaugurated by Prime Minister of India.
- ✓ Over 95 Energy Ministers from partner countries have been invited by the Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas to participate in the Conference. The 3-day mega event will showcase the recent market and investor friendly developments that have taken place in the India's oil and gas sector.
- ✓ It is expected to see participation of over 86 eminent speakers and 7000 delegates from around 70 countries, including technologists, scientists, planners, policy-makers, management experts, entrepreneurs, service-providers and vendors.

Winmeen Daily Current Affairs

1. Which country's Aerospace Industries has signed \$93 million Naval MRSAM deal with Indian Navy?

[A] South Korea

[B] United States

[C] Israel

[D] Germany

- ✓ Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has recently signed agreements worth \$93 million for providing Naval MRSAM (Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile) systems to India.
- ✓ The contracts for the air defence system were entered with the Indian Navy and the Cochin Shipyard. Under the contracts, IAI will provide complementary systems for the air defense system (ADS).
- ✓ The MRSAM family is an operational air-defense system used by Israel's navy as well as by India's naval, air and ground forces. It provides broad as well as topical defense against a range of assault air, marine and ground threats.
- ✓ MRSAM comprises several key state-of-the-art systems, including a digital radar, command and control, launchers, and interceptors with advanced homing seekers.

2. What is the theme of the 2018 World Leprosy Day (WLD)?

[A] Zero Child Leprosy

[B] Leprosy defeats, Live transform

[C] Zero Disabilities in girls and boys

[D] To live is to help to live

- ✓ The World Leprosy Day (WLD) is observed every year on the last Sunday of January to support those suffering from leprosy and educate those taking care of people suffering from this disease.

- ✓ This year, in 2018, it falls on 28 January and its theme is 'Zero Disabilities in Girls and Boys'. Leprosy is one of the oldest recorded diseases in the world.
- ✓ It is an infectious chronic disease that targets the nervous system, especially the nerves in the cooler parts of the body – the hands, feet, and face.

3. Who is the newly appointed DG of National Cadet Corps (NCC)?

[A] Rajeev Chopra

[B] Neeraj Sharma

[C] P S Bhanubhat

[D] S K Kamath

- ✓ Lt Gen Rajeev Chopra has taken charge as new Director General of National Cadet Corps (NCC) in New Delhi. Commissioned in the Madras Regiment in December 1980, Lt Gen Chopra is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla and Indian Military Academy, Dehradun.
- ✓ The NCC is an Indian military cadet corps with its headquarters at New Delhi. It is the world's largest uniformed youth organization. Its motto is 'Unity and Discipline'.

4. The National Salt Satyagraha Memorial (NSSM) is located in which of the following districts of Gujarat?

[A] Mehsana

[B] Kheda

[C] Bharuch

[D] Navsari

- ✓ On 30th January 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the National Salt Satyagraha Memorial at Dandi in Navsari district, Gujarat to the nation on Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary.
- ✓ At the memorial site, there are statues of Mahatma Gandhi and 80 Satyagrahis who had marched with

him during the historic Dandi Salt March in 1930 to make salt from sea water against the British law.

- ✓ The memorial also has 24-narrative murals depicting various events and stories from the historic 1930 Salt March. Solar trees are installed to meet the energy requirements of the memorial complex.
- ✓ The memorial project of the Union Ministry of Culture is advised by a High Level Dandi Memorial Committee (HLDMC), and is designed, coordinated and implemented by IIT Bombay in association with an international design team.

5. The 2019 International conference on Guru Padmasambhava was held in which of the following cities?

[A] Gorakhpur

[B] New Delhi

[C] Dharamshala

[D] Sanchi

- ✓ On January 29, the 2-day International conference on 8th century Himalayan sage Guru Padmasambhava was held in New Delhi that saw the participation of distinguished scholars from both countries. The conference titled 'Life and Legacy of Guru Padmasambhava', was organized by the Centre for Escalation of Peace (CEP).
- ✓ Scholars from both countries discussed the Guru who was born in India and moved towards Bhutan in the 8th century to spread Buddhism and Buddhist teachings all across the Himalayan region.
- ✓ The conference was dedicated to the 50 years of diplomatic relations between India and Bhutan. In Tibetan Buddhism, Guru Padmasambhava is generally referred to as Guru Rinpoche, which means "precious master." Guru Rinpoche is a totally enlightened being, a fully awakened one, a buddha.

6. ISRO has launched Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC) in which of the following cities?

[A] Kochi

[B] Chennai

[C] Bengaluru

[D] Hyderabad

- ✓ On January 30, ISRO launched the Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC) at its headquarters in Bengaluru for the human spaceflight programme. The centre is the hub of ISRO's future manned missions.
- ✓ HSFC shall be responsible for the implementation of Gaganyaan project — which involves mission planning, development of engineering systems for crew survival in space, crew selection and training and also pursue activities for sustained human space flight missions.
- ✓ HSFC will take the support of ISRO centres to implement the first developmental [crewed] flight. Under the Gaganyaan project, a 3-member crew will be sent to space for at least 7 days by 2022, the 75th year of Independence.
- ✓ Dr. S Unnikrishnan Nair is the founder director of HSFC, while R Hutton is the project director of Gaganyaan.

7. Which of the following countries have officially set up a payment channel with Iran called INSTEX?

[A] Italy, Russia and the Netherlands

[B] Brazil, South Africa and Egypt

[C] Saudi Arabia, Denmark and Japan

[D] Germany, France and the UK

- ✓ Germany, France and the UK have officially set up a payment channel with Iran called INSTEX, to help continue trade and circumvent US sanctions.
- ✓ The long-awaited special payment system will help save the Iran nuclear deal by allowing Tehran to keep trading with EU companies despite Washington re-imposing sanctions after US

President Donald Trump abruptly quit the accord in 2018.

- ✓ The three countries have launched the device at a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Bucharest, Romania. The new institution 'INSTEX' is a project of the three governments and will receive the formal endorsement of all 28 EU members.
- ✓ The Instrument In Support Of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX) is registered in France and will be headed by German banker Per Fischer, a former Commerzbank director.

8. Who has become the first female cricketer to play 200 ODIs?

[A] Jemimah Rodrigues

[B] Mithali Raj

[C] Jhulan Goswami

[D] Smriti Mandhana

- ✓ Indian captain Mithali Raj has scripted history by becoming the first female cricketer to play 200 ODIs when she played 3rd and final ODI against New Zealand on February 1.
- ✓ Though, she could not make a big impact in her 200th game, scoring nine off 28 balls as India were bowled out for 149 in the third and final ODI against New Zealand at Hamilton.
- ✓ Mithali is also the highest run-getter in ODIs with 6622 runs at an average of 51.33, including seven hundreds. She also holds the record for having captained the India Women team 123 times with England's Charlotte Edwards again second on this list having captained the Three Lions for 117 matches.
- ✓ Mithali made her ODI debut way back in 1999 and has featured in 200 games out of the 263 ODIs India have played. She has also played 10 Tests and 85 T20.

9. The newly-named Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade will work under which union ministry?

[A] Ministry of Labour and Employment

[B] Ministry of Commerce and Industry

[C] Ministry of Finance

[D] Ministry of Consumer Affairs

- ✓ The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) has been renamed as the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade with a mandate to deal with matters related to start-ups, facilitating ease of doing business among others.
- ✓ The move comes amidst demand by traders' body CAIT (Confederation of All India Traders) for forming a separate ministry for internal trade.
- ✓ The newly-named department under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry will look into matters related to promotion of internal trade, including retail trade, welfare of traders and their employees, facilitating ease of doing business and start-ups.
- ✓ Earlier, the matters related to internal trade were under the domain of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs.

10. A music and dance festival 'Sopan 2019' has started in which of the following cities?

[A] New Delhi

[B] Bhopal

[C] Jaipur

[D] Kanpur

- ✓ On 1st February, a music and dance festival 'Sopan 2019' has started at Central Park in New Delhi to encourage young and upcoming artistes to take up traditional art forms.
- ✓ The fest is organised by Sahitya Kala Parishad and the Delhi government in association with New Delhi

Municipal Council (NDMC). It is an attempts to take forward the traditional Indian art forms.

- ✓ This 6-day long festival is an opportunity for upcoming talents from vocals and instruments to dance forms to set an audience base for themselves.
- ✓ Young artistes such as Odissi dancers Madhur Gupta and Premananda Sahoo, vocalist Shivam Bhardwaj, percussionists Aamir Hussan and Amaan Jamil, and Kathak dancers Mrinalini among others will perform during the musical extravaganza.

Winmeen Daily Current Affairs

1. The Kala Ghoda Arts Festival (KGAF-2019) has started in which of the following cities?

[A] Mumbai

[B] New Delhi

[C] Hyderabad

[D] Jaipur

- ✓ On 2nd February, the Kala Ghoda Arts Festival (KGAF-2019) has started in Mumbai to commemorate 20 years of its inception.
- ✓ The fest is the India's largest multi-cultural street festival, which will celebrate two glorious decades of art and culture through cinema, theatre, dance, literature and sculpture through various spots on Mumbai's map.
- ✓ The festival will also host exhibition at the historic Jehangir Art Gallery to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and some rich history of Mumbai.
- ✓ Some of the festival highlights include screening of Khalil Mohammad's documentary on Iranian cafes, performances by Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia, Shaan, Prakriti and Sukriti Kakar, panel discussion on 26/11 attacks and its survivors, a session on working of drones, heritage walks, dances and shopping at Rampart Row.
- ✓ The festival will end on 10th February.

2. Who has become the first Indian golfer to grab Australian LPGA card?

[A] Diksha Dagar

[B] Astha Madan

[C] Vani Kapoor

[D] Ridhima Dilawari

- ✓ Vani Kapoor has become the first Indian golfer to earn a card for the Australian Ladies PGA Tour

(LPGA) after coming through its first-ever Qualifying Tournament at the Ballarat Golf Club.

- ✓ Vani shot rounds of 71, 78 and 69 to finish at two-over 218 and was tied-12th with three others.
- ✓ Vani has also qualified for Vic Open, co-sanctioned by the Australian LPGA and the US LPGA.

3. Which country has won the 2019 Asian Cup Football tournament?

[A] Japan

[B] Qatar

[C] Iran

[D] Singapore

- ✓ The Qatar national football team has won their first major football title after defeating four-time champion Japan 3-1 in the 2019 AFC Asian Cup final on 1st of February in United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- ✓ It was an improbable run to glory for the Gulf nation as it prepares to host the 2022 World Cup. In it, Almoez Ali has broken the record for the most goals ever scored by a single player at an Asian Cup tournament (9) and won most valuable player award of 2019 tournament.
- ✓ Earlier, the record was held by Ali Daei who scored eight for Iran in the 1996 edition.
- ✓ Almoez Ali is a Qatari professional footballer of Sudanese descent who plays for Qatar and Al-Duhail in the Qatar Stars League as a forward.

4. Which of the following teams has won the Kochi Area Pulling Regatta 2019 ?

[A] INS Vikrant

[B] INS Dronacharya

[C] INS Betwa

[D] INS Vikramaditya

- ✓ A team from INS Dronacharya has won the Regatta trophy (also called The Cock) in the Kochi Area

Pulling Regatta 2019 of the Southern Naval Command (SNC) in the Ernakulam Channel on January 31.

- ✓ The Boat Pulling regatta is one of the most prestigious and traditional naval sporting activities conducted in the Navy.
- ✓ The boats used in the regatta are 27-feet-long 'whalers' — a type of seaboat — each having a crew of five 'pullers' (rowers) and one coxswain (helm).
- ✓ The boats are named as 'whalers' as they were used in ancient times for hunting whales at sea. Races during the regatta were held in four different categories — junior sailors, senior sailors, officers and best whaler.
- ✓ The boats had to cover a distance of 1.6 km in the Ernakulam Channel, starting from the Venduruthy-Vikrant Bridge and finishing at the North Jetty of the navy.
- ✓ The regatta is considered a signature event of the Command, which requires the highest standards of physical and mental fitness and sustained hard work.

5. Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS), which is in news recently, is related to which of the following animals?

[A] Cow

[B] Camel

[C] Pig

[D] Goat

- ✓ The Mizoram government has banned import of pigs and piglets from other countries in view of possible outbreak of the Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) that has cost the lives of thousands of swines in the state.
- ✓ The orders were issued as the dreaded PRRS outbreak always occurred from March to July, during a dry spell after pre-monsoon downpours.
- ✓ According to the records of the Veterinary department, the PRRS has cost the lives of over

10,000 swines in Mizoram since 2013 and it is believed that it happened due to import of pigs and piglets from Myanmar where the disease was known to be prevalent.

- ✓ The PRRS is also known as blue-ear pig disease, which affects domestic pigs. The symptoms include reproductive failure, pneumonia and increased susceptibility to secondary bacterial infection.

6. What is the theme of the 2019 World Wetlands Day (WWD)?

[A] Forests and Wetlands

[B] Wetlands and Climate Change

[C] Wetlands for our Future

[D] Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future

- ✓ The World Wetland Day (WWD) is observed every year on 2nd Feb to raise awareness about the value of wetlands for humanity and the planet.
- ✓ The day marks adoption of the Convention on Wetlands (also called as Ramsar Convention) on 2nd February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on shores of the Caspian Sea.
- ✓ The 2019 theme "Wetlands and Climate Change" highlights the importance of healthy and intact wetlands to one of the most pressing challenges of climate change.

7. The first-ever global report "Future of the Rail" has prepared by which international organisation?

[A] IEA

[B] WHO

[C] IMF

[D] AIIB

- ✓ The International Energy Agency (IEA) has prepared the report titled 'The Future of Rail' in association with the International Union of Railways (UIC).

- ✓ This first-ever global report has a specific focus on India, where rail passenger traffic increased by nearly 200% since 2000.
- ✓ The report stated that Indian railways will account for nearly 40% of total global rail activity by 2050. The investments in Indian urban rail infrastructure are estimated to reach nearly \$190bn by 2050. As a result, India can save up to \$64bn on fuel expenses by that time.
- ✓ The IAEA report analyses the current and future importance of rail around the world through the perspective of its energy and environmental implications. As per the report, the rail sector carries 8% of the world's passengers and 7% of global freight transport but it utilises only 2% of total transport energy demand.
- ✓ The regions with the highest share of electric train activity are Europe, Japan and Russia, while North and South America still rely heavily on diesel. Most conventional rail networks are located in North America, Europe, China, Russia, India, and Japan.

8. What is the theme of the 12th edition of Aero India 2019?

[A] The Runway to a Billion Opportunities

[B] The Runway to a Million Opportunities

[C] The Runway to a Trillion Opportunities

[D] The Runway to Unlimited Opportunities

- ✓ The 12th edition of the India's premier air show – Aero India 2019 will be held at Air Force Station at Yelahanka in Bengaluru from February 20 to 24.
- ✓ The Ministry of Defence has lined up programmes for Start-Ups Day, Women's Day, Daily Students' Day, Drone Olympics and photography contests as sideshows to make it an interactive affair. More than 350 exhibitors will be accommodated in five hangers at the Air Force Station.
- ✓ This year, the aero show is themed 'The Runway to a Billion Opportunities', to communicate India's value proposition in addressing the immense

opportunities in the aerospace and aviation sectors in the country today. The logo for Aero India 2019 is inspired by the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA).

9. Which Indian state has topped in budgetary practices, as per latest survey by Transparency International (TI)?

[A] Andhra Pradesh

[B] Odisha

[C] Assam

[D] Punjab

- ✓ As per latest survey conducted by Transparency International (TI), Assam has occupied the top slot in the ranking of best practices followed by states in Budget formulation and is followed by Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.
- ✓ The states which figured lower in the ranking were Meghalaya, Manipur and Punjab.
- ✓ The survey was carried out on the basis of four parameters – public disclosure, budgetary process, post budget fiscal management and efforts to make budget more transparent and citizen friendly.
- ✓ Transparency International has stated in its survey report that Assam is the only state out of the 29 states and two union territories which has published a Citizens Budget in the public domain. It also stated that the Assam Government is the only government that has conducted budget awareness campaigns across 17 districts.

10. India's unemployment rate hit a 4 decade high to what percent in 2017-18, as per PLFS survey by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)?

[A] 5.2%

[B] 6.1%

[C] 4.3%

[D] 7.3%

- ✓ As per the National Sample Survey Office's (NSSO's) periodic labor force survey (PLFS), India's unemployment rate hit a 45 year high of 6.1% in 2017-18.
- ✓ The latest data on unemployment in India is the first comprehensive survey on employment conducted by a government agency after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced demonetisation move in November 2016.
- ✓ The report, which is yet to come in public domain, stated that this level of unemployment was last seen in 1972-73.
- ✓ According to the survey, the rate of unemployment among rural males in the age group of 15-29 years was at 17.4%, more than three times the 2011-12 rate of 5%. A similar trend was seen in females in the same age group, where the rate jumped from 4.8% in 2011-12 to 13.6% in 2017-18.
- ✓ The rate of joblessness for urban youths was a whopping 18.7% for males and 27.2% for females.

Winmeen Daily Current Affairs

1. Rishi Kumar Shukla, who has been appointed the new Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), is from which state?

[A] Rajasthan

[B] Madhya Pradesh

[C] Uttar Pradesh

[D] Jharkhand

- ✓ Rishi Kumar Shukla, a 1983-batch IPS officer of Madhya Pradesh Cadre, has been appointed the new Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- ✓ He will serve in the post for a period of two years. The High-Level Committee chaired by Prime Minister approved the appointment of Mr Shukla to the post. He succeeded M. Nageshwara Rao, who was working as Interim Chief of the Agency.
- ✓ The post of CBI Chief has been lying vacant since 10th of January 2019 after the exit of Alok Kumar Verma following accusations of corruption against him by former CBI Special Director Rakesh Asthana who is also allegedly accused of corruption charges.
- ✓ Prior to being appointed as the director of the CBI, Mr. Shukla has served as Madhya Pradesh DGP in 2016 and was presently the chairman of the Madhya Pradesh Police Housing Corporation (PHC) in Bhopal.

2. Who has been appointed as the new Nepalese ambassador to India?

[A] Nilambar Acharya

[B] Deep Kumar Upadhyay

[C] Arjun Karki

[D] Shankar Prasad Sharma

- ✓ Nilambar Acharya, Nepal's former law minister, has been appointed as the country's ambassador to

India. The position of the Nepalese ambassador to India was vacant for more than a year after Deep Kumar Upadhyay resigned to join politics in October 2017.

- ✓ President Bidya Devi Bhandari has recently administered oath of office to Acharya at Rastrapati Bhawan at Sheetal Niwas. Acharya is the first Nepalese ambassador to take oath of office and secrecy from the president under a new provision. Earlier, ambassadors were administered oath of office by Supreme Court chief justice.

3. Who is the recipient of K.Veeramani Award for Social Justice 2018?

[A] P S Krishnan

[B] Nitish Kumar

[C] S T Moorthy

[D] Veera Munusam

- ✓ P.S. Krishnan, former Secretary to Government of India (GoI), has been conferred prestigious K. Veeramani Award for Social Justice 2018 for his works in the field of social justice for SCs, STs, BCs for the last more than six-and-half decades. The Periyar International Inc., a Chicago-based voluntary organisation, gives an annual award for outstanding contributions to Social Justice at a function in New Delhi. The award carries a plaque and a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh.

4. Behrouz Boochani, who won the Australia's richest literary prize, is from which country?

[A] Palestine

[B] Saudi Arabia

[C] Iran

[D] Oman

- ✓ The Kurdish Iranian journalist, filmmaker and detained refugee, Behrouz Boochani has won the

Victorian Prize for Literature for a book he reportedly wrote using the online messaging service WhatsApp. He was awarded the Aus\$100,000 (US\$72,600) prize for his book "No Friend But the Mountains: Writing from Manus Prison". He will receive an additional Aus\$25,000 after it also won the non-fiction category.

- ✓ The award was accepted by the book's translator Omid Tofighian, who worked with Boochani over five years to bring the stories to life. It is the most valuable literary prize of Australia. Boochani is an Iranian asylum-seeker, who detained in Papua New Guinea (PNG)'s Manus Island since 2013 under Australian asylum laws when he was found attempting to enter mainland Australia without a valid visa.
- ✓ He is among 600 refugees who remain in camps on the island despite Australia having closed its "regional processing center" there in 2017. Under Australia's hardline immigration policy, asylum seekers who try to reach the country by boat to Manus Island or Nauru in the Pacific for processing, with those found to be refugees barred from resettling in Australia.
- ✓ The harsh policy is meant to deter people embarking on treacherous sea journeys, but the United Nations and other rights groups have criticised the camps' conditions and long detention periods.

5. Who has become the first Asian woman cricketer to play hundred T20Is?

[A] Sana Mir

[B] Bismah Maroo

[C] Harmanpreet Kaur

[D] Daendra Dottin

- ✓ Sana Mir, the former Pakistan captain, has become the first Asian woman cricketer to play hundred T20 Internationals (T20Is).

- ✓ She achieved the feat when she took the field against West Indies during the third T20I in Karachi on February 3, 2019. Overall, Mir is the only sixth woman from around the world to play 100 T20Is. Daendra Dottin of West Indies tops the list with a total of 109 T20's to her name. In the Asian list, Sana is followed by fellow Pakistan cricketer Bismah Maroo (94 T20Is) and India's Harmanpreet Kaur on third position (93 T20Is).

6. Which of the following states has recently declared Indus river dolphin as the state's aquatic animal?

[A] Haryana

[B] Himachal Pradesh

[C] Punjab

[D] Jammu & Kashmir

- ✓ Punjab has recently declared the endangered Indus river dolphin as the state's aquatic animal. The decision was recently taken at a meeting of the state board for wildlife chaired by chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh.
- ✓ Indus Dolphin is an endangered freshwater aquatic mammal found only in Indian and Pakistan in the Beas river. These are brown/grey in colour, but blind and live for at least for 30 years.
- ✓ The Chief Minister also gave approval to declare Kanjli Wetland and holy Kali Bein River as a wildlife conservation reserve to mark the historic 550th Parkash Purb of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji. The sacred Kali Bein River was associated with the life of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, who got enlightenment while taking a dip in the holy river.

7. Which state government has launched the 2nd phase of Pasupu-Kumkuma scheme?

[A] West Bengal

[B] Telangana

[C] Odisha

[D] Andhra Pradesh

- ✓ On February 2, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu launched the 2nd phase of Pasupu-Kumkuma (Turmeric-Kumkum) scheme and welfare pensions. Under the scheme, women who are a part of Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) will be given Rs 10,000 in three instalments. Approx Rs 9400 crore have been granted for the scheme.
- ✓ The welfare pensions for senior citizens, widows, handloom workers, toddy tappers, fishermen, single women, dappu (one kind of drum) artists, cobblers and AIDS patients have been increased from Rs 1000 to Rs 2000, while pension for divyangs and eunuchs have been increased from Rs 1500 to Rs 3000. Furthermore, kidney disease victims will be given a pension of Rs 3500.

8. What is the theme of the 2019 World Cancer Day (WCD)?**[A] Not Beyond Us****[B] Debunk the Myths****[C] I Am and I Will****[D] Cancer Myths – Get the Facts**

- ✓ The World Cancer Day (WCD) is observed every year on 4th of February to spread awareness about cancer, its treatment and to encourage methods of its prevention.
- ✓ The aim of the day is to save millions of preventable deaths each year through education, raising awareness and by pressing governments and individuals across the world to take action against the deadly disease. This year, in 2019, Union for International Cancer Control, which organizes WCD, has launched a new 3-year campaign with the theme: "I Am and I Will".
- ✓ The campaign is an empowering call-to-action urging for personal commitment and represents the power of individual action taken now to impact the

future. Over 9.6 million People die each year from cancer which is more than HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined.

- ✓ India has around 2.25 million cases with over 1 lakh new cases being registered every year. In 2018, the disease led to nearly 7 lakh deaths. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) estimates that the country is likely to register over 17 lakh new cases and report over 8 lakh deaths by 2020.

9. Alaa Mashzoub, who was recently shot dead, was the renowned novelist of which country?**[A] Iraq****[B] Afghanistan****[C] Pakistan****[D] Bangladesh**

- ✓ In Iraq, a renowned novelist & critic Alaa Mashzoub (51) was shot dead by unknown assailants on 2nd of February in the city of Karbala. He was known as a bold writer who was not afraid to broach political and religious taboos in his writings.
- ✓ His research into the history of his hometown was published in two parts as 'A Summary of Karbala Cultural History'. Mashzoub spoke out against sectarianism and militias. He was known as an outspoken writer who published in a variety of newspapers and wrote several novels, including The Chaos of the Nation (2014) Crime on Facebook (2015), and The Jewish Baths (2017).
- ✓ Mashzoub has 20 published books and has written extensively about Karbala's history and culture. He has also written about Iraq's once-thriving Jewish minority. He had been recognized by a number of filmmaking and writing prizes, including a Katara Prize for Arabic Fiction and a prize for his documentary film 'Doors and Windows'.
- ✓ In recent times, Iraq has seen a number of political assassinations, particularly of outspoken activists. Karbala is about 100 kilometers southwest of Baghdad.

10. The World Heritage Centre (WHC) would be set up at which of the following states?

[A] Chennai

[B] Dehradun

[C] New Delhi

[D] Kolkata

- ✓ The World Heritage Centre (WHC) housing 'spiritual camps' of 45 countries would be set up at Mayapur in Nadia district, Kolkata. The camp of each country would reflect its culture, dress, lifestyle, food and ambiance.
- ✓ The process for setting up the centre got momentum after West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee inquired about the project at a recent administrative meeting in Nadia district.
- ✓ The proposed project would also showcase traditional Bengali handloom and craft as suggested by the chief minister.
- ✓ The estimated project cost of the proposed centre has been fixed at Rs. 3,000 crore. Mayapur is the global headquarters of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON).

Winmeen Daily Current Affairs

1. Who is the recipient of the 2019 Kalamaharshi Baburao Painter Award at the 2019 Kolhapur International Film Festival (KIFF)?

[A] Gajendra Ahire

[B] Abhijit Deshpande

[C] Govind Nihalani

[D] Rohini Hattangadi

- ✓ An acclaimed cinematographer and screenwriter and filmmaker, Govind Nihalani will be honoured with the Kalamaharshi Baburao Painter Award for his contribution to the film industry at the 2019 Kolhapur International Film Festival (KIFF). The 7th edition of the film festival is scheduled to be held from February 7 to 14.
- ✓ The award is named after Painter, a native of Kolhapur who was a painter, sculptor and a filmmaker of the silent film era. More than 50 feature and short films, including those from Japan, South Korea, France and Iran, among others, will be screened at a well-known multiplex here as part of the 2019 KIFF.
- ✓ The country focus will be on Hungarian cinema.

2. Ramesh Bhatkar, who passed away recently, was the renowned actor of which regional cinema?

[A] Marathi

[B] Tamil

[C] Telugu

[D] Odia

- ✓ Ramesh Bhatkar (70), the veteran Marathi actor, has passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra on February 4, 2019. He was known for his roles in the TV series "Commander" and "Hello Inspector" and worked for more than 30 years as an actor in mainstream Hindi and Marathi films such as "Aai

Pahije", "Kucch To Hai" and "Bhavesh Joshi Superhero".

- ✓ For the last 30 years, Ramesh has played lead roles in such plays as Ooghadaale Swargache Daar (1982), Denaryaache Haath Hazaar (1980), Shadyantra (1991), Kevha Tari Pahate, Akher Tu Yeshilach, Rahu Ketu, Mukta, The Boss- Sutradhar, Kinara.

3. Which city is the venue of the ICT Academy Bridge 2019 conference?

[A] Jaipur

[B] New Delhi

[C] Pune

[D] Chennai

- ✓ In Tamil Nadu, the 37th edition of the ICT Academy Bridge 2019 conference was held in Chennai with theme "Fostering India for Industry 4.0".
- ✓ The event brought together industry experts, academic leaders and government policy-makers to address the challenges faced by India Inc. in the era of Fourth Industrial Revolution & therefore creating a correlated education ecosystem and formulating a strategic regulatory framework.
- ✓ It is the largest Industry-Institute Interaction Event of Asia and is organized by ICT Academy. The city witnessed more than 1,000 participants from government, industry and academia.

4. Which Indian squash player has won the 2019 Seattle Open title?

[A] Saurav Ghosal

[B] Ramit Tandon

[C] Harinder Pal Sandhu

[D] Cyrus Poncha

- ✓ Indian squash player Ramit Tandon has won the 2019 Seattle Open title by defeating Mohamed El Sherbini of Egypt in the final in USA. It is his fourth

title in his career. The Seattle Open is a Professional Squash Association (PSA) challenger squash Tour event.

5. Which state government has launched Kalia Students' Scholarship Scheme to boost education for farmers children?

[A] Chhattisgarh

[B] Tamil Nadu

[C] Assam

[D] Odisha

- ✓ In Keonjhar district, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched the new 'KALIA Chhatravritti Yojana' to facilitate the children of the farmers, who are the beneficiaries of the Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) scheme.
- ✓ Under this scholarship scheme, the beneficiaries will be provided scholarships for pursuing higher education in professional courses free of cost. Children of farmers who have taken admission at Government Professional colleges on merit basis will be eligible for the scholarship scheme.
- ✓ The state government has also launched drinking water projects worth Rs 1,050 crore to supply safe drinking water in the district. Patnaik also launched Mission Shakti Conclave dedicated the development projects worth Rs 45 crore.

6. Which of the following states has become the first Indian state to set up a Price Monitoring and Research Unit (PMRU)?

[A] Punjab

[B] Kerala

[C] Karnataka

[D] Telangana

- ✓ Kerala has become the first State to set up a Price Monitoring and Research Unit (PMRU) to track violation of prices of essential drugs and medical devices under the Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO).
- ✓ The move comes more than 5 years after the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) proposed such a system for the States and the Union Territories.
- ✓ The new watchdog will offer technical help to the State Drug Controllers and the NPPA to monitor notified prices of medicines, detect violation of the provisions of the DPCO, look at price compliance, collect test samples of medicines, and collect and compile market-based data of scheduled as well as non-scheduled formulations.

7. Who won the 2019 El Salvador presidential election?

[A] Nayib Bukele

[B] Josue Alvarado

[C] Hugo Martínez

[D] Carlos Calleja

- ✓ The media-savvy former mayor of San Salvador, Nayib Bukele of the Grand Alliance for National Unity (GANU) has won a landslide victory in 2019 El Salvador presidential election by winning over 53% of the total vote. With this, he brought an end to a two-party system that has held sway over the violence-plagued Central American country for three decades.
- ✓ Bukele will succeed Salvador Sánchez Cerén, after whom the leadership chair was vacant for a period of time. He will assume office on 1 June 2019.

8. Which space telescope has discovered a new dwarf galaxy 'Bedin 1' in the cosmic neighbourhood?

[A] Astro 2

[B] Astrosat

[C] Hisaki

[D] Hubble

- ✓ The Hubble Space Telescope (HST) has made an unexpected discovery of a new dwarf galaxy in our cosmic neighborhood. Named Bedin 1, the galaxy is approximately 30 million light-years away and 2 million light-years from the nearest plausible large galaxy host 'NGC 6744'.
- ✓ The object is classified as a dwarf spheroidal galaxy because it measures only around 3,000 light-years at its greatest extent, and it is roughly a thousand times dimmer than our own Milky Way Galaxy.
- ✓ The galaxy is named after discovery team leader Dr. L. R. Bedin of the INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Padova in Italy. The dwarf spheroidal galaxies are not uncommon, Bedin 1 has some notable features. Not only is it one of just a few dwarf spheroidals that have a well established distance but it is also extremely isolated.
- ✓ This makes it possibly the most isolated small dwarf galaxy discovered to date. The Dwarf spheroidal galaxies are defined by their small size, low-luminosity, lack of dust and old stellar populations. 36 galaxies of this type are already known to exist in the Local Group, 22 of which are satellite galaxies of the Milky Way.
- ✓ The researchers used the NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope to study white dwarf stars within the globular cluster NGC 6752. The aim of their observations was to use these stars to measure the age of the globular cluster, but in the process they made an unexpected discovery of Bedin 1.

9. INF Treaty, which is in news recently, is in between which of the following countries?

[A] Taiwan & China

[B] France & Germany

[C] United States & Russia

[D] Israel & Palestine

- ✓ The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty is a Cold War-era missile treaty that was signed in 1987 between the United States and the Soviet Union. Signed by Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev, the treaty barred both countries from deploying land-launched cruise missiles in the 500-to 5,500-km range. It was a key to ending the arms race between the (then) two super powers and helped protect the U.S.'s NATO allies in Europe from Soviet missile attacks.
- ✓ The deal addressed Soviet nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles targeting Western capitals, but put no restrictions on other major military actors such as China. Recently, it is in news because the United States has suspended its obligations under the INF Treaty with Russia effective on 2nd February 2019 and will withdraw from the treaty in six months.
- ✓ Article XV of the treaty mandates a six-month notice period before withdrawal. The reasons for withdrawal are as follows: the Trump and Obama administrations have repeatedly alleged that Russia was violating the treaty by fielding a ground-based cruise missile, the Novator 9M729 ("SSC-8" in NATO terminology) that could strike Europe at a short notice, an allegation that Russia has repeatedly denied.
- ✓ The Russians have raised counter-allegations against the U.S., with regard to launchers for antiballistic missile systems in Europe.

10. Aribam Syam Sharma, who has decided to return his Padma Shri award in protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill of 2016, is from which north-eastern state?

[A] Manipur

[B] Mizoram

[C] Nagaland

[D] Tripura

- ✓ Manipur-based filmmaker and music composer Aribam Syam Sharma has decided to return his

2006 Padma Shri award in protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 that the Centre wants to push through.

- ✓ The 83-year-old filmmaker made the decision after families of around 855 martyrs of the anti-foreigners Assam Agitation of 1979-85 returned the citation that the Sarbananda Sonowal government had given them in 2016. The government had also honored these families with Rs 5 lakh each for the sacrifice of the martyrs.
- ✓ The protests have rocked the entire northeast against the proposal to grant citizenship to non-Muslims from neighbouring Muslim-majority countries. The film fraternity of the region backed the decision of Manipur filmmaker Aribam Syam Sharma to return his Padma Shri in protest against the bill.
- ✓ The Bill seeks to fast-track the process of granting citizenship to non-Muslims from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan who came to India till December 31, 2014, allegedly because of religious persecution.

Winmeen Daily Current Affairs

1. GSAT-31, which is in news recently, is launched from which of the following places?

[A] French Guiana

[B] Sriharikota

[C] Florida

[D] Moscow

- ✓ India's latest communication satellite GSAT-31 was successfully launched by European launch services provider- Arianespace's rocket from Kourou Launch Base in French Guiana on February 6, 2019. The Ariane-5 vehicle (Flight VA247) also carried Saudi Geostationary Satellite 1/Hellas Sat 4 along with GSAT-31.
- ✓ After a 42-min flight, GSAT-31 separated from the Ariane-5 in an elliptical Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) with a perigee (nearest point to Earth) of 250 km and an apogee (farthest point to Earth) of 35,850 km, inclined at an angle of 3.0 degree to the equator.
- ✓ After separation from Ariane-5, the two solar arrays of GSAT-31 were automatically deployed in quick succession and ISRO's Master Control Facility at Hassan in Karnataka took over the command and control of GSAT-31 and found its health parameters normal.
- ✓ The GSAT-31 is a high power communication satellite with Ku-band and will provide communication services to Indian mainland and islands. It has an operational life of over 15 years & will offer seamless services by replacing the ageing INSAT-4CR satellite. GSAT-31 is India's 40th communication satellite.

2. Ladu Kishore Swain, who passed away recently, was the current MP from which Lok Sabha constituency of Odisha?

[A] Aska

[B] Keonjhar

[C] Jagatsinghpur

[D] Sundargarh

- ✓ Ladu Kishore Swain (71), the senior Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leader, has passed away in Bhubaneswar on 5 February 2019. He was elected to the 16th Lok Sabha in May 2014 from Aska constituency of Odisha.

3. Who is the head of the committee which is constituted by the Maharashtra to review welfare schemes for tribals?

[A] Vivek Pandit

[B] Vasant Rao More

[C] A T Nana Patil

[D] Sudhakar Wagh

- ✓ The Maharashtra government has set up a 17-member committee to review various schemes being implemented for the welfare of tribals in the state.
- ✓ The committee will be headed by former MLA and Shramjeevi Sanghatna president Vivek Pandit. The panel will undertake the study of various works done for providing employment opportunities, minimum wages and proper livelihood to tribals.
- ✓ As per a recent government order, the committee will suggest measures to ensure that children in tribal regions were not deprived of education. The committee will hold its meetings every three months and submit its recommendations to the government.

4. What is the theme of the 30th National Road Safety Week (NRSW-2019)?

[A] Your Security, Safeguards your Family- Be warned on the Roads

[B] Road Security a Goal, Not an Intermission

[C] Sadak Suraksha-Jeevan Raksha

[D] Walk for Road Security

- ✓ On 4th February, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways launched the 30th National Road Safety Week (NRSW-2019) in New Delhi to raise public awareness about traffic rules and ultimately to reduce casualties due to road accidents. The 2019 theme is "Sadak Suraksha-Jeevan Raksha".
- ✓ In an event at Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in Rajghat, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari also flagged off a motor car rally to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- ✓ The motor rally will cover around 7250 km and will travel through those places in India, Bangladesh and Myanmar which are historically associated with Gandhiji. The conclusion of the rally will take place at Yangon in Myanmar on the 24th February 2019.

5. Which union ministry has launched Shehri Samridhi Utsav?**[A] Ministry of Health and Family Welfare****[B] Ministry of Home Affairs****[C] Ministry of Urban Development****[D] Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs**

- ✓ On 5th February, the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched Shehri Samridhi Utsav to extend the outreach of DAY-NULM (Deendayal Antyodaya Mission – National Urban Livelihoods Mission) to the most vulnerable.
- ✓ The event will also showcase its initiatives and facilitate access of Self-Help Group (SHG) members to the other government schemes. Through Shehri Samridhi Utsav, SHG members across cities are being linked to national government schemes viz.
- ✓ Swachhh Bharat Mission (U), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (U), Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

(PMUY), Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana (PMJJY) and National Nutrition Mission (NNM). The major highlight of Utsav is the National Exhibition cum sale of SHG products and National Street Food Festival being organized in New Delhi.

6. Which of the following PSEs has been declared winner under Miniratna Category by Ministry of MSME for exemplary work amongst CPSEs for promotion of SC/ST entrepreneurs?**[A] SAIL****[B] AAI****[C] NFDC****[D] IRCTC**

- ✓ The National Film Development Corporation of India (NFDC) has been selected as winner under the Miniratna Category by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).
- ✓ This has been done as part of endeavor by Ministry of MSME to felicitate select Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) to recognize their exemplary work towards promotion of SC/ST entrepreneurs.
- ✓ As per data uploaded on Sambandh Portal, the performance parameters for the felicitation were procurement from SC/ST entrepreneurs, number of vendor development programmes for SC/ST and number of SC/ST entrepreneurs benefitting.
- ✓ The NFDC, incorporated in the year 1975, was formed by the Government of India (GoI) with the primary objective of planning and promoting an organised, efficient and integrated development of the Indian film industry.

7. Sentinelese Tribe, which is in news recently, is located in which of the following islands?**[A] South Sentinel Island****[B] Kondul Island**

[C] Bompuka

[D] North Sentinel Island

- ✓ The North Sentinel Island (NSI) is home to the Sentinelese tribe, which have consistently refused any interaction with the outside world. They are hostile to outsiders and have killed people who approached or landed on the island. Sentinelese people are believed to be the only pre-Neolithic people in the world.
- ✓ This means they have a culture that existed in the middle period of Stone Age. Their use of metals is not specifically known with many believe that they don't use metals for purposes other than in weapons. The tribe is in news recently because the Minister of State for Home Affairs Hansraj Gangaram Ahir gave information about the tribe in a written reply to question in the Lok Sabha.
- ✓ The tribe is on the verge of extinction as per 2011 census; there are a number of laws/regulations to protect them. These are being strictly implemented and enforced by the UT Administration. These Laws/Regulation include 1) A & N Islands (PAT) Regulation 1956, 2) Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, 3) Restrictions under Foreigner (Restricted Area) Orders, 1963, 4) Visa Manual Conditions/Passport Act 1920, and 5) Indian Forest Act, 1927 and Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ✓ The NSI is one of the Andaman Islands, an archipelago in the Bay of Bengal which also includes South Sentinel Island.

8. The joint HADR Exercise 'RAHAT-2019' will be conducted in which of the following states?

[A] Madhya Pradesh

[B] Jharkhand

[C] Rajasthan

[D] Uttar Pradesh

- ✓ In Rajasthan, the joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise 'RAHAT-2019' will be conducted by Jaipur based Sapta Shakti Command on behalf of Indian Army from 11th February.
- ✓ The 2-day exercise will be conducted simultaneously in three places viz. Jaipur in the form of a table top exercise and at Kota and Alwar on-ground capability and coordination.
- ✓ The Joint exercise in coordination with NDMA is being conducted to synergise efforts for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations. Representatives from Armed Forces, National Disaster Management Response Mechanism (NDMRM), SDMA Rajasthan and DLMAS will be participating in the exercise.

9. Which high court has ruled against negative marking in competitive examinations?

[A] Delhi High Court

[B] Calcutta High Court

[C] Madras High Court

[D] Bombay High Court

- ✓ In a huge relief to a number of students who fail to qualify to enter into prestigious institutions like IITs due to negative marking, the Madras High Court ruled against negative marking in competitive examinations saying they are bad in law.
- ✓ The Court stated that the practice of awarding negative marks will eradicate intelligent guessing in competitive exams.
- ✓ The judgment was passed while disposing of a writ petition filed in 2013 by an IIT JEE aspirant S. Nelson Prabhakar (a Scheduled Caste student), who failed to clear the Mains due to negative marking.

10. Dakshayani, which is in news recently, is a/an _____?

[A] Space Center

[B] Novel

[C] Animal

[D] Religious tradition

- ✓ Dakshayani, an 88-year-old captive she-elephant in Kerala, has died at a care centre at nearby Pappanamcode in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on 5th February 2019.
- ✓ She was the oldest captive elephant in Asia and Guinness record holder. She was also called the 'Gaja Muthassi' (grandmother of elephants). In 2016, she was conferred the "Gaja Muthassi" (elephant granny) title and entered the Guinness book of records.
- ✓ The Postal department had also brought out a postal cover on the elephant. Dakshayani had been a resident at the Chengallur Mahadeva temple in Thiruvananthapuram for the last 70 years and was owned by Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB).