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Second Week

Current Affairs

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### Winmeen Daily Current Affairs

**1. Which city is the venue of the 2nd National Conference of Micro Missions of National Police Mission (NPM)?**

[A] Pune                    [B] Hyderabad

[C] Bangalore              [D] New Delhi

- ✓ The 2nd National Conference of Micro Missions of National Police Mission (NPM) has started in New Delhi on 7th of February 2019, which is organized by Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D).
- ✓ The two day Conference will discuss the issues of Skills and Competence at the grass-root level, Attitudinal Changes in Police, Gender Sensitization, harnessing technology and Community Policing. A mega-d version of NPM Compendium on the projects developed by the Mission will also be released.
- ✓ The NPM awards will be given to 09 officers for their contribution in Micro Missions and successful preparation of the implementable projects.
- ✓ NPM Division of BPRD strives to transform the Police Forces of the country into an effective instrument for the maintenance of Internal Security. To achieve the mandate of NPM, 8 micro missions are working under BPRD. BPRD organizes Conference on National Police Mission annually.

**2. The Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog (RKA) would be set up for \_\_\_?**

[A] Conservation of Cows

[B] Protection of Cows

[C] Progeny of Cows

[D] All of the above

- ✓ The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for the establishment of Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog (RKA) for conservation, protection and development of cows and their progeny. It will lead to the development of the cattle population in the country

including the development and conservation of indigenous breeds.

- ✓ It will result in the growth of the livestock sector which is more inclusive, benefit women, and small and marginal farmers. The Aayog will work in collaboration with Veterinary, Animal Sciences or Agriculture University or departments or organizations of the Central or State Government engaged in the task of research in the field of breeding and rearing of the cow, organic manure, biogas, etc.
- ✓ Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog was announced in the Union Budget 2019-20 on the 1st of this month.

**3. Which project has been launched by Union Government to study Apparel Consumption in India?**

[A] India Apparel

[B] India Size

[C] India Attire

[D] India Outfit

- ✓ In Mumbai, the India Size project has recently launched by the Union Minister of Textiles Smriti Irani. It's a first-of-its-kind project in the history of the country, which aims to arrive at a standard Indian Size for the ready-to-wear clothing industry, on the lines of the standardized sizes available in countries such as the USA, the UK and Mexican.
- ✓ A size chart that is specific to Indian consumers' measurements will be developed. The project is being undertaken by the Ministry of Textiles, in collaboration with The Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI). The Minister also launched a Study of Apparel Consumption in India. The report of this study would be ready for release by July 2019.
- ✓ Under India Size, an all-India anthropometric study of measurements of the average Indian apparel consumer will be undertaken. The study will include an analysis of close to 25,000 consumers spread over various age groups, and covering the cities of Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Shillong. This will enable the study to cover all important regions of the country.

**4. Which country has recently signed NATO accession agreement?**

[A] Romania [B] Croatia

[C] Macedonia [D] Kosovo

- ✓ On 6th February, Macedonia signed an accord to join NATO to become the 30th member of the US-led alliance. The admittance of a new member highlighted that all European nations who meet the entrance criteria could join the regional alliance. However, Moscow has continually rejected NATO's position, saying that by taking in Balkan members, the alliance is undermining security in the region. The Macedonia-NATO accord follows a deal with Greece ending a 27-year-old dispute over Macedonia's name.
- ✓ The accord must now be ratified by allied governments. The move followed a deal between Macedonia and NATO-member Greece under which Macedonia agreed to change its name to the Republic of North Macedonia. North Macedonia will formally join the alliance in 2020.

**5. The 462nd Kandoori festival 2019 has celebrated in which of the following states?**

[A] Tamil Nadu [B] Andhra Pradesh

[C] Kerala [D] Karnataka

- ✓ In Tamil Nadu, the 462nd annual Kandoori festival 2019 has started at nearby Nagore Dargah, a famous Muslim pilgrim centre in Nagore.
- ✓ The 14-day long festival began on 6th February after the holy flag was brought in a procession and hoisted. The Kandoori festival is held to commemorate the death anniversary of 16th century saint Hazrath Syed Shahul Hameed Quadir Wali, who migrated from his native Manickapur near Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh and lived in Nagore till his death. As per tradition, one of the five flags was brought from Singapore.

- ✓ The main event of the festival- 'Sandanakoodu'(sandal pot) procession- will be held on February 15. The Dargah of Saint Hazrath Syed Shahul Hameed in Nagore is more than 500 years old.
- ✓ Saint Hazrath Syed Shahul Hameed came to Thanjavur on a pilgrimage during the 16th century AD when he cured the illness of the then King of Thanjavur Achuthappa Naicken. The King gifted the saint lands in Nagore where the latter lived for the rest of his life serving the people, irrespective of religion, caste or creed.

**6. What is the current repo rate, as per RBI's 6th bi-monthly monetary policy statement for 2018-19?**

[A] 6.0% [B] 6.75%

[C] 6.50% [D] 6.25%

- ✓ The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, announced the sixth bi-monthly monetary policy statement for 2018-19. In it, the RBI has cut the key policy rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 25 basis points to 6.25% from 6.5% with immediate effect.
- ✓ Consequently, the reverse repo rate stands adjusted to 6.0%, and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 6.5%. The MPC also decided to change the monetary policy stance from calibrated tightening to neutral. These decisions are in consonance with the objective of achieving the medium-term target for consumer price index (CPI) inflation of 4 per cent within a band of +/- 2 per cent, while supporting growth. The bank also projected an economic growth rate of 7.4% for FY20, up from 7.2% estimated for the current fiscal by Central Statistics Office (CSO).
- ✓ This is the first policy review, post the appointment of RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das and also the first post the interim budget. The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled from April 2 to 4, 2019.

7. Which city was the venue of the 'Parmanu Tech 2019'?

[A] Kanpur

[B] New Delhi

[C] Udaipur

[D] Dehradun

- ✓ The "Parmanu Tech 2019" Conference was organised by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) at New Delhi on February 6.
- ✓ The conference discussed issues related to Nuclear Energy and Radiation Technologies. Dr Jitendra Singh, the Union Minister of State for Atomic Energy and Space, delivered the keynote address at the conference. During the conference sector specific sessions were held with Panel discussions on the following topics:
- ✓ 1) Health care: Nuclear Medicine and Radiation therapy – Care to cure,
- ✓ 2) Food Preservation, Agricultural & Industrial Applications: From farms to factories – Serving the National Cause and
- ✓ 3) Showcasing India's capabilities in Nuclear Energy: Energy Security with environmental responsibility – the Onward March.

8. Which state government has launched the Zero Fatality Corridor (ZFC)?

[A] Punjab

[B] Assam

[C] Delhi

[D] Odisha

- ✓ The Arvind Kejriwal-led Delhi government has recently launched the 'Zero Fatality Corridor' (ZFC) to examine the cause for accidents and crashes on the stretch between Burari Chowk and Bhalswa chowk, located on the outer ring road.
- ✓ The aim of the pilot project is to reduce deaths to near zero levels on this particular stretch. The project will entail a scientific study to reduce the conflict involving pedestrians and cyclists on one hand and the cars and heavy vehicles on the other.

- ✓ The initiative is to be run in partnership with SaveLIFE Foundation, a leading road safety non-profit organization.

9. Which country has officially declared Siamese fighting fish as its national aquatic animal?

[A] Thailand

[B] Indonesia

[C] Vietnam

[D] Malaysia

- ✓ Thailand has officially declared the Siamese fighting fish as its national aquatic animal to boost conservation efforts and commercial breeding in the country.
- ✓ Known in the West as a betta fish, the underwater brawler is popular in home aquariums for its iridescent body and many-hued tail. It brings up feelings of nostalgia for older generations in Thailand – which changed its name from Siam in 1939.
- ✓ They remember a time when the fish were traded and sparred in childhood games. The Siamese fighting fish is listed as Vulnerable by the IUCN. Thailand's official national animal is the elephant.

10. The 52nd Boori Boot Yollo festival 2019 is celebrated by which tribe of Arunachal Pradesh?

[A] Singhpore

[B] Mishmi

[C] Nyishi

[D] Apatani

- ✓ The 52nd Boori Boot Yollo festival 2019 has recently been celebrated by the Nyishi tribe of Arunachal Pradesh. The fest is observed in the month of February every year to welcome spring and a successful harvest. During this festival, the consecrated soul is summoned to sanctify the people.
- ✓ Apart from it, it is an occasion of mass prayer for prosperity eliminating the possibility of any fatal ailments. The striking feature here is the giant assemblage of people cutting across the barriers of cast, creed, age and sex. The young ones take the

lead to be guided by the elders where Nibu (Priest) would perform the rituals.

- ✓ The festival has an anthem which speaks of the sun rising, planets, mighty rivers, flora and fauna. A portion of the lyric deals with the earth which keeps on rotating around the sun along with other heavenly bodies.

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**1. Which of the following cricket teams has clinched the 2019 Ranji Trophy?**

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| [A] Vidharbha | [B] Saurashtra |
| [C] Bengal    | [D] Railways   |

✓ On 7th February, Vidarbha lifted the Ranji Trophy for the second time in a row, after defeating Saurashtra by 78 runs in the final match of the 2018–19 season held at Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium, Nagpur. With this, Vidarbha has become only the 6th team in the tournament's long history to have defended the title.

**2. Which city is the venue of 9th Senior Women's Hockey National Championship 2019?**

- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| [A] Balaghat | [B] Hisar     |
| [C] Jaipur   | [D] New Delhi |

✓ The 9th Senior Women's Hockey National Championship 2019 has started in Hisar, Haryana from February 8. Top India stars will turn up for their respective state units and employers for the tournament. RSPB will begin their campaign against Hockey Rajasthan in the Pool A opening match.  
 ✓ Twenty teams will participate in the 11-day domestic extravaganza. Teams that take the top two spots in Pools A, B, C and D in the round-robin stage will qualify for the quarterfinals to be played on February 15. The semifinal and final will be played on February 17 and February 18, respectively.

**3. Who of the following Indian female cricketers has scored fastest T20I fifty?**

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| [A] Harmanpreet Kaur |  |
| [B] Smriti Mandhana  |  |
| [C] Ekta Bisht       |  |

[D] Nagarajan Niranjan

- ✓ On 6th February 2019, Opener Smriti Mandhana hammered the fastest fifty for India in the first T20I against New Zealand in Wellington in just 24 deliveries.
- ✓ She broke her own record of fastest T20I fifty for India in women's cricket, which she had achieved against England in Mumbai in 2018. Though, Smriti Mandhana's 58 and Jemimah Rodrigues' 39 went in vain as the Indian eves were bundled out for 136 in 19.1 overs.
- ✓ New Zealand Women defeated India by 23 runs in the first T20I. The overall record for the fastest fifty in women's T20Is belongs to Sophie Devine of New Zealand who hit a half-century in 18 balls against India during a T20 International back in 2015.

**4. The Robert Bosch Center for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (RBC-DSAI) has established at which IIT?**

- |                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| [A] IIT Madras    | [B] IIT Kanpur |
| [C] IIT Kharagpur | [D] IIT Bombay |

- ✓ The Robert Bosch Center for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (RBC-DSAI) has recently inaugurated at the IIT Madras with an objective of advance scientific innovation for societal benefit.
- ✓ The RBC-DSAI will undertake foundational research in many areas of AI and Data Science viz. deep learning, reinforcement learning, network analytics, interpretable machine learning, and domain aware AI.
- ✓ The centre is opened by Germany-based Bosch in collaboration with IIT-Madras. Bosch will invest around Rs 20 crore (2.5 million euros) over five years in the centre.

**5. What is the India's rank at the 2019 US Chambers International IP Index?**

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| [A] 52 <sup>nd</sup> | [B] 14 <sup>th</sup> |
|----------------------|----------------------|

[C] 36<sup>th</sup> [D] 43rd

- ✓ The Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC) of the US Chambers of Commerce has recently released its International IP Index for Year 2019. In it, India has moved up 8 places to rank 36th among 50 economies in the 2019 Index.
- ✓ The improvement reflects important reforms implemented by Indian policymakers towards building and sustaining an innovation ecosystem for domestic entrepreneurs and foreign investors alike. The report also focuses on thorny issues.
- ✓ According to the report, the key problems in India include barriers to licensing and technology transfer, strict registration requirements, limited framework for the protection of bio-pharmaceutical IP rights, patentability requirements outside international standards, lengthy pre-grant opposition proceedings and previously used compulsory licensing for commercial and non-emergency situations.
- ✓ The index ranks countries based on 45 indicators covering patent, trademark, copyright and trade secrets protection.

#### **6. The India Heritage Walk Festival (IHWF-2019) has organized by Sahapedia in partnership with which international organization?**

[A] ILO [B] UNESCO

[C] UNICEF [D] FAO

- ✓ The 2nd edition of India Heritage Walk Festival (IHWF-2019) is a one-of-its-kind month-long festival covering 37 cities has started from February 2. It is organized by Sahapedia in partnership with UNESCO. The fest is also supported by the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC).
- ✓ This festival offers the opportunity to discover the hidden gems linked to history. The primary objective of the festival is to widen access to various aspects of India's tangible and intangible heritage.

- ✓ Through 87 heritage walks and over 100 outreach events, the event will explore the cultural fabric of India, focusing on museums, historically significant monuments and markets, natural landscapes, areas known for rich cuisine, and locations that are rooted in women-oriented narratives.
- ✓ For this edition, Sahapedia has collaborated with about 40 local-level partners to conduct its pan-India heritage walk festival. They include the Kerala History Museum, The Kochi Heritage Project, INTACH Srinagar Chapter, Art Deco Mumbai, Maharana of Mewar Charitable Foundation and Oxford Bookstore.

#### **7. What is the theme of the Asia LPG 2019 Summit?**

[A] LPG – Safe for Life

**[B] LPG – Energy for Life**

[C] LPG – Spirit for Life

[D] LPG – Reliable for Life

- ✓ The 2nd edition of the Asia LPG Summit 2019 was held in New Delhi with theme 'LPG – Energy for Life'.
- ✓ The summit was organized by the World LPG Association (WLPGA) in association with major Indian public-sector oil companies (OMCs) Indian Oil, Hindustan Petroleum, and Bharat Petroleum.
- ✓ In it, Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan stated that India has become the world's second largest importer of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) as its government pushes cleaner alternatives to traditional cooking fuels such as firewood and cow dung.
- ✓ The imports of LPG grew 12.5% over the past five years to 12 million metric tons (13 million tons) in 2018-19. Hence, in terms of LPG import, India has surpassed Japan to acquire 2nd spot. China is at first spot. India imports LPG mainly from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kuwait and Iran.
- ✓ The summit offered a unique opportunity to the global LPG industry to interact with development

agencies, NGOs and non-profit organizations who have facilitated last-mile access to LPG for the beneficiaries.

**8. Dard Aryan Tribe, which is in news recently, is from which state/UT?**

[A] Arunachal Pradesh [B] J&K

[C] Jharkhand [D] Himachal Pradesh

- ✓ The Dard Aryan Tribe of Jammu and Kashmir's Ladakh region known for its liberal customs and ornate costumes is struggling to keep its vibrant cultural legacy alive. Recently, at the 2019 Dard Aryan Festival (Aryan Utsav) in New Delhi, the delegation of the Dard Aryans has requested the Central government to make serious interventions.
- ✓ The rich heritage of the Dard Aryans — believed to be the original descendants of 'pure Aryan race' — is under threat due to rapid modernisation, migration and religious conversion. The Dard Aryans inhabit Dha, Hanu, Beema, Darchik and Garkone villages in Leh and Kargil districts.
- ✓ The villages are together called the Aryan valley. The people of this region have unique physical features, social life, ethnic culture and language.
- ✓ Many researchers believe that the 'Argans of Ladakh' or the 'Brokpas' were a part of Alexander's army and had come to the region over 2,000 years ago. The word 'Dard' is derived from a Sanskrit word, 'Daradas', which refers to people who live on hillsides.

**9. The circuit bench of the Calcutta High Court will be set up in which of the following districts of West Bengal?**

[A] Malda [B] Hooghly

[C] Darjeeling [D] Jalpaiguri

- ✓ The Union Cabinet has recently approved the establishment of Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri. The proposed bench will have jurisdiction over four districts namely Darjeeling,

Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar. The decision comes in the backdrop of the decision of the Calcutta High Court Full Court Meeting in 1988. The Union cabinet had also approved the move in June 2006.

- ✓ A circuit bench is for territories which are far flung, but do not have too many matters to justify a full-fledged permanent bench.
- ✓ The Calcutta High Court is the oldest High Court in India. It has jurisdiction over the state of West Bengal and the Union Territory of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The High Court building's design is based on the Cloth Hall, Ypres, in Belgium.

**10. Which warship of the Indian Navy participated in the multinational maritime exercise 'Cutlass Express 2019'?**

[A] INS Talwar [B] INS Trishul

[C] INS Trikand [D] INS Tarkash

- ✓ INS Trikand (F51), a Talwar-class frigate of the Indian Navy, participated in the 8th edition of multinational maritime exercise 'Cutlass Express 2019'.
- ✓ INS Trikand is commanded by Captain Srinivas Maddula and is equipped with a versatile range of sensors and weapons enabling her to address threats in all the three dimensions – air, surface and sub-surface. The exercise was held near Djibouti, Mozambique and the Seychelles from 27 Jan to 06 Feb 19.
- ✓ The aim of the exercise was to improve law enforcement capacity, promote regional security and progress inter-operability between the armed forces of the participating nations for the purpose of interdicting illegal maritime activity in the Western Indian Ocean.
- ✓ The 15 participating nations in this iteration of Cutlass Express are Canada, Comoros, Djibouti, France, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Portugal, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania, The Netherlands and the United States.

### Winmeen Daily Current Affairs

**1. Which international organisation has recently called for a total ban on nuclear weapons?**

- [A] Red Cross      [B] UNESCO  
 [C] UNSC      [D] Interpol

- ✓ On 8th of February 2019, the Red Cross called for a total ban on nuclear weapons & also gave warning of the growing risk that such arms could again be used with devastating effect. For this burning issue, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) launched a global campaign to raise awareness about the rising nuclear threat facing the world.
- ✓ The notonukes.org campaign comes after the United States and Russia announced to abandon the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF)Treaty.
- ✓ The campaign aims to encourage people to lobby their governments to sign and ratify the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which has so far been signed by 70 nations and ratified by 21.

**2. Albert Finney, who passed away recently, was the Oscar-nominated actor of which country?**

- A. France      B. England  
 C. Germany      D. Italy

- ✓ Oscar-nominated British actor Albert Finney (82) has passed away in London on 7th of February 2019. He was a five-time Oscar nominee who began his career at the Royal Shakespeare Company before making his mark in film.
- ✓ He is known for his roles in Saturday Night and Sunday Morning (also 1960), Tom Jones (1963), Two for the Road (1967), Scrooge (1970), Annie (1982), The Dresser (1983), Miller's Crossing (1990), etc.

**3. Jeremy Lalrinnunga is related to which sports?**

- [A] Boxing      [B] Judo

- [C] Weightlifting      [D] Wrestling

- ✓ Weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga from Mizoram has recently clinched silver in men's 67kg category & fetched India's second medal in the EGAT's Cup International Weightlifting Championships in Chiang Mai, Thailand.
- ✓ Lalrinnunga lifted 131kg in the snatch and 157kg in clean and jerk for a total of 288 kg. Earlier, in the ongoing event, world champion Saikhom Mirabai Chanu had won a gold in the women's 48-kilogram category with a total lift of 192 kilograms.

**4. Who is the author of the book "Let's Talk On Air: Conversations with Radio Presenters"?**

- [A] Hrishikay Kannan  
 [B] Ameen Sayani  
 [C] Anuraag Pandey  
 [D] Rakesh Anand Bakshi

- ✓ The book titled "Let's Talk On Air: Conversations with Radio Presenters" has been authored by Rakesh Anand Bakshi, which serves as a comprehensive guide on radio-presenting in India.
- ✓ The new book celebrates the lives of 14 popular radio presenters in India – from the legendary Ameen Sayani to present-day RJs who have been entertaining us via the airwaves. Besides Sayani, among those RJs featured in the book are Yunus Khan, Rohini, Mamta Singh, Sayema, Hrishikay Kannan, Anuraag 'picture' Pandey and Anmol. This book can help shed light on intricacies of radio as a medium and the RJs behind the microphones, connect fans to their favourite RJs and, eventually attract more talent to be part of the industry.
- ✓ The book, published by Penguin Random House, will be launched on World Radio Day (WRD-2019) on February 13 in Mumbai.

**5. Who has been appointed as the new Union Sports Secretary?**

[A] Rahul Bhatnagar

**[B] Radheyshyam Julaniya**

[C] Vinod Sahay

[D] Preetam Kumar

- ✓ Radheyshyam Julaniya, a 1985 batch officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, has been appointed the new Union Sports Secretary. He succeeded Rahul Bhatnagar, who is set to join the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. Earlier, Bhatnagar had also served as Director General of Sports Authority of India (SAI) and the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA).
- ✓ During his tenure, IIM Rohtak has also started a MBA programme in Sports Management with Ministry funding. Bhatnagar also outlined the achievements of the Sports Ministry during his tenure, which includes, opening the National Sports University (NSU), Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) besides hosting important international tournaments like the Hockey World Cup in Bhubaneswar and World Women's Boxing Championships in New Delhi.

**6. Father Francois Laborde, who has been conferred the France's highest civilian honour, is from which state?**

[A] West Bengal

[B] Assam

[C] Goa

[D] Maharashtra

- ✓ Father Francois Laborde, a 92-year-old Bengal priest, has been conferred the Légion d'Honneur (Legion of Honour), the highest civilian award of France, in recognition of his work for specially-abled children.
- ✓ Father Laborde is of French-origin but he has been given Indian citizenship. He is the third person from the state to have been awarded the Legion of Honor after film maestro Satyajit Ray and actor Soumitra Chatterjee.

**7. Which of the following will be the official mascot of 13th COP of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (COP CMS 13)?**

[A] Great hornbill

[B] Yellow-footed green pigeon

[C] Indian roller

**[D] Great Indian Bustard**

- ✓ The 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS 13) will be held at 15th to 22nd February 2020 at Gandhinagar in Gujarat. Recently, the Government of India (GoI) has announced that the Great Indian Bustard (GIB) will be its mascot for CMS COP-13. It is an environmental treaty under the aegis of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- ✓ Representatives from 129 Parties and eminent conservationists and international NGOs working in the field of wildlife conservation are expected to attend the COP. India has been a Party to the CMS since 1983. The Conference of Parties (COP) is the decision-making organ of this convention.
- ✓ CMS, also known as the Bonn Convention, recognizes that States must be the protectors of migratory species that live within or pass through their national jurisdictions and aims to conserve terrestrial, marine, and avian migratory species throughout their ranges.

**8. On which date, the National Deworming Day (NDD-2019) is observed in India?**

**[A] February 10**

[B] February 11

[C] February 09

[D] February 08

- ✓ The National Deworming Day (NDD) is an initiative of Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) to make every child in the country worm free.

- ✓ The day is observed every year on 10th of February to tackle worm infections among pre-school (anganwadi) and school-age children across India. On 8th of February 2019, Union Health Ministry conducted its 8th round of NDD across the country to reduce the prevalence of parasitic intestinal worms among children.
- ✓ During the programme, Albendazole tablets were orally administered to pre-school and school-going children in the age group of 1 to 19 years.
- ✓ As per World Health Organization (WHO) report, 64% of the Indian population less than 14 years are at risk of Soil-Transmitted Helminths (STH) infections. During this round, over 24 Crore Children and Adolescents will be covered.

**9. India has signed pact with which neighboring country to train Civil Servants?**

[A] Nepal                    [B] Bangladesh

[C] Bhutan                    [D] Myanmar

- ✓ India has signed a MoU with Bangladesh to train 1800 Bangladesh Civil Servants at the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) over the next 6 years.
- ✓ They will be trained in e-governance and service delivery, public policy and implementation, information technology, decentralization, urban development and planning, ethics in Administration and challenges in implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ✓ This is the second time that NCGG signed an MOU for a training program for Bangladesh Civil Servants. Under the first MOU signed 5 years ago, 1500 Bangladesh Civil Servants have already been trained in NCGG.
- ✓ The NCGG is an autonomous institute under the aegis of Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DAR&PG), Government of India. Its head office is at New Delhi. It's a think tank for governance & policy reforms.

**10. The Union Cabinet has approved to set up an unified authority for regulating all financial services in which organisation?**

[A] RBI                        [B] SEBI

[C] IFSC                        [D] IRDAI

- ✓ The Union Cabinet has recently approved establishment of a unified authority for regulating all financial services in International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) in India through IFSCs Authority Bill of 2019.
- ✓ The establishment of a unified financial regulator for IFSCs will result in providing world-class regulatory environment to market participants from an ease of doing business perspective.
- ✓ This will provide a stimulus for further development of IFSCs in India. Currently, the banking, capital markets and insurance sectors in IFSC are regulated by multiple regulators — the RBI, SEBI and IRDAI, respectively. An IFSC caters to customers outside the jurisdiction of the domestic economy. Such centres deal with flows of finance, financial products and services across borders.
- ✓ It provides business and regulatory environment that is comparable to other leading international financial centres in the world like London and Singapore. IFSC provides Indian companies easier access to global financial markets. The first IFSC in India was set up at GIFT City in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

### Winmeen Daily Current Affairs

**1. Which city is the venue of the 2nd ASEAN-India Youth Summit 2019?**

[A] Pune                    [B] Hyderabad

[C] Guwahati              [D] Jaipur

- ✓ The 2nd ASEAN-India Youth Summit 2019 was held in Guwahati, Assam on the theme "Connectivity is the pathway to shared prosperity" from 03-06 February 2019. It is organized by India Foundation in collaboration with Union Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Government of Assam.
- ✓ Over 100 youth delegates from the ten ASEAN countries – Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam took part in the summit.
- ✓ The purpose of the summit was to strengthen the mutual cooperation among the youth leaders from India and the ASEAN countries. Hence, the 2019 summit is a step to facilitate Socio-cultural exchanges between the countries to further strengthen the values of tolerance, pluralism and diversity.

**2. Under which section of the Banking Regulation Act of 1949, RBI has slapped Rs 1 crore penalty on SBI for violating norms?**

[A] Section 35A            [B] Section 47A

[C] Section 44A            [D] Section 49A

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India has exercised its powers conferred under Section 47A of the Banking Regulation Act of 1949 & imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore on the State Bank of India (SBI) for not monitoring the end use of funds in respect of one of its borrowers. However, SBI did not share details of the borrower and the loan amount given to the borrower.

**3. RBI has recently raised the limit for collateral-free agriculture loans from Rs 1 Lakh to \_\_\_\_?**

[A] Rs 1.5 lakh            [B] Rs 1.6 lakh

[C] Rs 1.7 lakh            [D] Rs 1.4 lakh

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently raised the limit for collateral-free agriculture loans to Rs 1.6 lakh from Rs. 1 lakh to enhance coverage of small and marginal farmers in the formal credit system. Currently, the banks are mandated to extend collateral-free agricultural loans up to Rs. 1 lakh.
- ✓ This limit was fixed in the year 2010. The RBI also proposed to set up an internal working group to review various issues plaguing farm credit, such as regional disparity, extent of coverage and limited capital formation from such credit. As per interim Budget of 2019, the Government of India (GoI) will also launch the 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)' programme to provide assured income support to small and marginal farmers.
- ✓ Under this, vulnerable landholding farmer-families, having cultivable land up to two hectares, will be provided direct income support at the rate of Rs. 6,000 per year. This income support will be transferred directly into the bank accounts of beneficiary farmers in three equal instalments of Rs. 2,000 each. The programme will be funded by the Government of India (GoI).

**4. The first-ever World Pulses Day (WPD) is observed on which of the following dates?**

[A] February 11            [B] February 09

[C] February 08            [D] February 10

- ✓ The first-ever World Pulses Day (WPD) is observed on 10th February to raise awareness about the multiple benefits of eating pulses. Pulses are a type of leguminous crop that are harvested solely for the dry seed.
- ✓ Dried beans, lentils and peas are the most commonly known and consumed types of pulses. Pulses do not include crops that are harvested

green (e.g. green peas, green beans)—these are classified as vegetable crops.

- ✓ In 2018, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) designated 10 February as World Pulses Day (WPD) to keep alive the positive momentum surrounding these healthy, nutritious, protein-rich, nitrogen-fixing legumes after FAO's successful 2016 International Year of Pulses (IYP) Campaign.

**5. Who authored the book "Law, Justice and Judicial Power – Justice P N Bhagwati's Approach"?**

[A] Mool Chand Sharma [B] Rupinder Singh Suri

[C] Shashi Tharoor [D] Soli J Sorabjee

- ✓ The book titled "Law, Justice and Judicial Power – Justice P N Bhagwati's Approach" has been authored by Professor (Dr.) Mool Chand Sharma. It was formally released by Chief Justice of India, Justice Ranjan Gogoi at a function held in New Delhi.
- ✓ The first edition of the book was received by President Ramnath Govind. Justice Bhagwati has been called the father of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in India.
- ✓ The book is a collection of 24 essays written in honour of Justice Bhagwati, celebrating his judicial work and landmark judgments as well as his work towards introducing PIL in India.

**6. The Himalayan Cloud Observatory has been set up in which district of Uttarakhand?**

[A] Bageshwar [B] Pithoragarh

[C] Tehri Garhwal [D] Rudraprayag

- ✓ The Himalayan Cloud Observatory has recently been set up in the SRT campus Chamba of Tehri Garhwal district in Uttarakhand to receive forecast and monitor cloud burst incidents in the Himalayan region and help minimise the damage.
- ✓ This is the second observatory in the country to monitor cloud activities by the Indian Science and

Technology (IST) Department and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur that can function in high-altitudes. The cloudburst incidents are very frequent in the hilly areas of Uttarakhand and resulted in a huge loss of life.

- ✓ The Himalayan Cloud Observatory has recently prepared a six-month data while being in the testing period, so that after the completion of the testing period, cloud bursting incidents in future could be easily predicted and the severe loss of lives and property caused to the localities due to this could be stopped.

**7. Which country has decided to include Hindi as the third official language in courts?**

[A] Iran [B] UAE

[C] Saudi Arabia [D] Oman

- ✓ The Abu Dhabi Judicial Department (ADJD) has decided to include Hindi as the third official language used in its courts, alongside Arabic and English, as part of a move designed to improve access to justice.
- ✓ The move will help the Hindi speakers to learn about litigation procedures, their rights and duties without a language barrier. It is estimated that 3.3 million Indian expats live in United Arab Emirates (UAE), and a large number of them are blue collar workers.
- ✓ Hence, this is an excellent step taken by Abu Dhabi that will certainly improve access to justice for India's blue collar workers. It also fits perfectly into the wider agenda of UAE's Year of Tolerance".

**8. Which city is the venue of the 13th edition of International Oil and Gas Conference 'PETROTECH-2019'?**

[A] Greater Noida [B] Dehradun

[C] Shimla [D] Bhopal

- ✓ On 11th of February, the 13th edition of International Oil and Gas Conference 'PETROTECH-2019' has inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at India Expo Mart in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ The three-day biennial event is organised under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. The conference will showcase the recent market and investor friendly developments in India's oil and gas sector. Over 95 Energy Ministers from partner countries and 7000 delegates from around 70 countries are expected to be part of PETROTECH -2019.

**9. Which country's President has been elected as the chairman of the African Union (AU)?**

- |                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| [A] Zambia       | [B] Egypt    |
| [C] South Africa | [D] Ethiopia |

- ✓ Egyptian President, Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi has been elected as the chairman of the African Union (AU) at the continental body's summit in Ethiopia. El-Sisi's election brought to an end the one-year chairmanship of Rwanda's President Paul Kagame.
- ✓ The Egyptian leader is expected to focus on the fight against armed groups on the continent and rebuilding efforts of countries recovering from conflict. It is the first time since the AU was founded in 2002 that Egypt assumes the top seat of the body.
- ✓ The African Union (AU) is a continental union consisting of 55 countries of the continent of Africa. The purpose of AU is to achieve greater unity and solidarity between the African countries and Africans.
- ✓ The primary languages spoken include Arabic, English, French and Portuguese and the languages of Africa. Within the African Union, there are official bodies such as the Peace and Security Council and the Pan-African Parliament.

**10. Dikkibandi stadium, which is in news recently, is located in which of the following states?**

- |               |                       |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| [A] Nagaland  | [B] Tripura           |
| [C] Meghalaya | [D] Arunachal Pradesh |
- ✓ The Meghalaya Cabinet has recently decided to rename the Dikkibandi stadium in Tura town after former Lok Sabha Speaker Purno A Sangma. The state Cabinet meeting presided over by Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma approved the recommendations received from the state naming authority tasked with the job to name roads, and institutions after personalities.
  - ✓ PA Sangma is also a former chief minister of Meghalaya. He was elected from the Tura Lok Sabha seat a number of times. Conrad K Sangma and James K Sangma are sons of Purno A Sangma. Formerly, Dikkibandi stadium was known as the MP stadium. The state Cabinet has also decided to name a road leading from Mawlai-Mawroh to Madan in honour of Saint Teressa.

### Winmeen Daily Current Affairs

**1. Jamie Chadwick, who became the first female driver to win MRF Challenge title, is from which country?**

- |                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| [A] United States | [B] England |
| [C] France        | [D] Belgium |

✓ In February 2019, Jamie Chadwick from England has scripted history by becoming the first female motor racing driver to clinch the MRF Challenge Championship title after scoring a triple win in the final round of the season in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. She is best known for becoming the first ever female and youngest winner of the British GT Championship in 2015.

**2. Which Indian filmmaker is the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award (LTA) by the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television?**

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| [A] Mira Nair   | [B] Shyam Benegal |
| [C] Deepa Mehta | [D] Mani Ratnam   |

✓ Acclaimed Indo-Canadian filmmaker Deepa Mehta will be given the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television (ACCT). She is best known for her Elements Trilogy — Fire (1996), 1947 Earth (1999) and Water (2005).  
 ✓ Mehta's "Earth" was submitted by India as its official entry for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, and "Water" was Canada's official entry for Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film. "Earth" was the first to receive an Oscar nomination.  
 ✓ The Canadian screen awards are presented annually by the ACCT to recognise excellence in Canadian film, English-language television, and digital media productions. In May 2012, Mehta received the governor general's Performing Arts Award for Lifetime Artistic Achievement — Canada's highest honour in the performing arts.

**3. Which city is the venue of the World Government Summit (WGS-2019)?**

- |               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| [A] New Delhi | [B] Dubai  |
| [C] Paris     | [D] London |
- ✓ On 10th of February, the 7th edition of World Government Summit (WGS-2019) was held at Madinat Jumeirah in Dubai, UAE to deliver a road map towards a more prosperous future for all nations.  
 ✓ The 3-day event was held under the patronage of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid, Vice President and Ruler of Dubai. The focus of the summit was on 7 key topics: the future of technology, the future of health and quality of life, the environment and climate change, education and the labour market, trade and international co-operation, societies and politics and information and communication between governments and society.

✓ More than 4,000 decision-makers from 140 countries – including heads of state, ministers and business leaders – are participating the event. The summit is a knowledge exchange platform at the intersection of government, futurism, technology, and innovation. It functions as a thought leadership platform and networking hub for policymakers, experts and pioneers in human development.  
 ✓ It is also showcases innovations, best practices, and smart solutions to inspire creativity to tackle these future challenges.

**4. What is the theme of the 2019 International Day of Women and Girls in Science?**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| [A] Transforming the World: Parity for All                          | [B] Investment in Women and Girls in Science for Inclusive Green Growth |
| [C] Gender Equality and Parity in Science for Peace and Development | [D] Women's participation in policy-making processes                    |

- ✓ The International Day of Women and Girls in Science is celebrated every year on 11th of February to promote full and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls.
- ✓ The day is a reminder that women and girls play a critical role in science and technology communities and that their participation should be strengthened. The 2019 theme is "Investment in Women and Girls in Science for Inclusive Green Growth".

5. The multinational maritime exercise 'AMAN 19' was conducted in which of the following countries?

- [A] Pakistan                  [B] India  
[C] Sri Lanka                  [D] Myanmar

- ✓ On February 8, the 5-day multinational maritime exercise 'AMAN 19' has commenced at Pakistan Navy Dockyard near the coastal city of Karachi with the slogan "Together for Peace".
- ✓ The flags of 46 countries including Pakistan were hoisted and the contingents of Pakistan Navy presented a march-past. The principal purpose of the exercise is to provide a forum for understanding of each other's maritime concepts and operational cultures and come up with ways and means to combat common threats at sea.
- ✓ The exercise is aimed at fostering maritime cooperation, promoting a safe and secure maritime environment for regional and global stability and for preserving oceans which is the common heritage of mankind.

6. Which union ministry is organizing the first-ever Annual Conference of Media Units?

- [A] Ministry of Information & Broadcasting  
[B] Ministry of Human Resource Development  
[C] Ministry of Science and Technology  
[D] Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

- ✓ The first-ever Annual Conference of Media Units will be organized by Union Ministry of Information & Broadcasting at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on 13th of February 2019.
- ✓ The purpose of the Conference is to give a unique platform to the officers of the Indian Information Service (IIS) working under different Media Units to converge at an All-India level where they can discuss and deliberate upon the emerging areas of the evolving communication paradigm.
- ✓ Through the Conference, the Ministry aims to strengthen synergy between the Media Units in order to ensure last mile delivery, while simultaneously brainstorm the use of new technology in communication.
- ✓ The participants will also discuss the ways of using Social Media to reach target audience groups and push the boundaries of communication outreach in terms of geographical and cultural barriers.

7. The Hollong Modular Gas Processing Plant (HMGPP), which is in news recently, is located in which state?

- [A] Odisha                  [B] Tripura  
[C] Nagaland                  [D] Assam

- ✓ On 9th of February, Prime Minister Narendra Modi formally inaugurated and dedicated to the Nation the Hollong Modular Gas Processing Plant (HMGPP) of Hindustan Oil Exploration Co. Ltd.
- ✓ (HOEC) at Dirok Field in Assam. Initially, the HMGPP will have a capacity to process 35 million standard cubic feet per day of gas equivalent to 15% of Assam gas production and 800 barrels of condensate. The plant is located in Margherita, Tinsukia district of Assam.
- ✓ The gas produced from this field will be supplied to consumers in the North-East region, including Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Ltd. Dirok Field is being developed in phases by HOEC along with its JV partners – Oil India Ltd. and Indian Oil Corporation.

**8. The 3rd edition of Swachh Shakti-2019 was held at which of the following cities?**

- [A] Dehradun      [B] Lucknow  
 [C] Gandhinagar      [D] **Kurukshtera**

- ✓ The third edition of Swachh Shakti-2019 was held at Kurukshtera, Haryana on February 12, which was attended by woman sarpanches and women associated with the 'Swachhta' campaign from across the country. It is a national event to recognize the leadership role played by rural women in Swachh Bharat Mission towards achieving a Clean and Open Defecation Free (ODF) country by 2nd October 2019.
- ✓ Around 15,000 women participated in this year's Swachh Shakti event aimed at empowering the women. Prime Minister Narendra Modi distributed the 'Swachh Shakti 2019' awards too. The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation in association with the Govt. of Haryana organized the Swachh Shakti-2019.
- ✓ Best practices from grass root level in the rural areas for Swachh Bharat will be shared by them. The event will showcase the achievements of Swachh Bharat and the recently conducted Swachh Sunder Shauchalay, (neat and clean toilet) – a unique and first of its kind in the world campaign.

**9. On which date, the National Unani Day (NUD-2019) was celebrated in India?**

- [A] February 10  
 [B] **February 11**  
 [C] February 12  
 [D] February 13

- ✓ The National Unani Day (NUD) is celebrated every year on 11th February to mark the birth anniversary of great Unani researcher Haqim Ajmal Khan. He was an eminent Indian Unani physician who was versatile genius, freedom

fighter, educationist and founder of scientific research in Unani Medicine.

- ✓ As part of 3rd Unani Day 2019 celebration, the two-day National Conference on Unani Medicine was held at New Delhi with theme 'Unani Medicine for Public Health'. It was organized by the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM).
- ✓ The conference highlighted the important role played by Unani Medicine in public health especially in combating NCDs, lifestyle disorders and various chronic diseases by providing cost effective treatment and quality products for patient healthcare. About 1300 delegates, resource persons, academicians, researchers and industry representatives participated in the conference.

**10. Which Indian Historian has won the 2019 Dan David Prize?**

- [A] **Sanjay Subrahmanyam**  
 [B] Irfan Habib  
 [C] M. G. S. Narayanan  
 [D] Sumit Sarkar

- ✓ Renowned Indian historian Sanjay Subrahmanyam has been awarded the Israel's prestigious Dan David Prize 2019 for his work on inter-cultural encounters between Asians, Europeans and people of North and South America during the early modern era.
- ✓ He won the award in the category of "past time dimension" for his work in macro history. He will share the \$1-million prize money with historian Prof. Kenneth Pomeranz of University of Chicago. The prize is named after philanthropist Dan David and administered by Israel's Tel Aviv University.
- ✓ It is awarded annually to those who have made outstanding scientific, technological and humanistic accomplishments in fields representing the past, present and future of human achievement. The award ceremony will take place in Tel Aviv in May 2019.

**Winmeen Daily Current Affairs****1. Which city is the venue of the CREDAI YouthCon -19?**

[A] Ahmedabad      [B] Varanasi

[C] Kolkata      [D] New Delhi

- ✓ On 13th February 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed over 3000 young Real Estate developers at the CREDAI YouthCon -19 at the Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi. The 2-day conference was organized by Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Association of India (CREDAI).
- ✓ The annual conference will bring together the next generation of real estate builders and developers to enlighten their young minds and share their thinking and approach. Established in 1999, CREDAI is the apex body representing real-estate developers from over 200 cities in the country.

**2. What is the theme of the 2019 World Radio Day (WRD)?**

[A] Radio and Sports

[B] Radio is You

[C] Dialogue, Tolerance and Peace Broadcasts

[D] Securing freedom of expression and journalists' safety

- ✓ The World Radio Day (WRD) is observed every year on the 13th of February to celebrate radio as a forum for information and entertainment, as a bridge of communication for remote communities and its role in empowering people.
- ✓ It is also a day to remember the unique power of radio which touches lives and brings people together from every corner of the globe. The day was proclaimed on 3rd November 2011 by UNESCO's 36th General Conference.
- ✓ The 2019 theme "Dialogue, Tolerance and Peace Broadcasts" provides a platform for dialogue and democratic debate over issues, such as migration or violence against women, can help to raise

awareness among listeners and inspire understanding for new perspectives in paving the way for positive action.

**3. Vijaya Bapineedu, who passed away recently, was the prominent film director-producer of which regional cinema?**

[A] Malayalam      [B] Odia

[C] Tamil      [D] Telugu

- ✓ Vijaya Bapineedu (83), the prominent Telugu film director-producer, has passed away in Hyderabad, Telangana on February 12, 2019.
- ✓ Hails from West Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh, he was known for Telugu films like Gang Leader, Khiladi No. 786 and Magadheerudu.

**4. Which state government has recently banned the Popular Front of India (PFI)?**

[A] Jharkhand      [B] Tamil Nadu

[C] J & K      [D] Arunachal Pradesh

- ✓ The Jharkhand government has recently banned the Popular Front of India (PFI) in the state to curb its anti-national activities and for keeping links with terror outfits like ISIS. According to the government notification, the PFI is banned with immediate effect under the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1908.
- ✓ The decision to ban PFI has been taken after a review that its activities have increased and is dangerous to the state and the nation and it has the power to disrupt peace, communal harmony and secular structure.
- ✓ As per notification, the PFI has been involved in spreading social division, anti-India and pro-Pakistan slogans, and links with ISIS and JMB. The PFI is an extremist and militant Islamic fundamentalist organisation in India, formed as a successor to National Development Front (NDF) in 2006.

5. Which Indian armed force has conducted 'Exercise Topchi 2019'?

[A] Indian Air Force

**[B] Indian Army**

[C] Indian Navy

[D] Indian Coast Guard

- ✓ Indian Army has recently demonstrated its artillery firepower by using ultra light Howitzers and indigenous Swathi weapon-locating radar at the annual 'Exercise Topchi 2019' at the vast firing ranges at Deolali Camp near Nasik, Maharashtra.
- ✓ The aviation and surveillance capabilities were also showcased in the Exercise. In addition to the gun fire, the display of rockets, missiles, surveillance and target acquisition radars, remotely piloted aircraft and hi-tech equipments was awe-inspiring.

6. Which city was the venue of the first-ever LAWASIA Human Rights Conference 2019?

[A] New Delhi

[B] Ranchi

[C] Jaipur

[D] Pune

- ✓ On 9th February, the first-ever LAWASIA Human Rights Conference 2019 was held in New Delhi with theme "State Power, Business and Human Rights: Contemporary Challenges". The 2-day conference was hosted by LAWASIA, in association with the Bar Association of India (BAI).
- ✓ The conference focussed on topics ranging from "Gender, Sexuality and Human Rights" to "Climate Change, Water Conflicts and Human Rights". It provided a unique opportunity for lawyers and associated professional members to exchange insights and expertise on topics of significance.
- ✓ LAWASIA is a regional association of lawyers, judges, jurists and legal organisations, which advocates for the interests and concerns of the Asia Pacific legal profession.

7. India and which country has recently launched initiative to combat Marine Pollution?

[A] Iceland

**[B] Norway**

[C] France

[D] Japan

- ✓ The Union Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) has recently signed a letter of intent with the Norwegian government to launch the India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative. In partnership, both the countries will share experiences and competence, and collaborate on efforts to develop clean and healthy oceans, sustainable use of ocean resources and growth in the blue economy.
- ✓ The first Joint initiative of both the governments will combat marine pollution, which is one of the fastest growing environmental concerns. The initiative will seek to support local governments in implementing sustainable waste management practices, develop systems for collecting and analyzing information about sources and scope of marine pollution and improve private sector investment.
- ✓ The Indian and Norwegian governments will also work towards beach clean-up efforts, awareness raising campaigns and pilot project using plastic waste as fuel substitution for coal in cement production and developing frameworks for deposit schemes.

8. What is the theme of the 2019 National Productivity Week (NPW)?

**[A] Circular Economy for Productivity & Sustainability**

[B] Industry 4.0 Leapfrog Opportunity for India

[C] From waste to profits-through reduce, recycle and reuse

[D] Ease of Doing Business for higher productivity

- ✓ The National Productivity Council (NPC) has started the celebration of its 61st Foundation Day on 12th February with the theme "Circular Economy for Productivity & Sustainability". NPC observed foundation day as National Productivity Day (NPD) and the National Productivity Week (NPW) from February 12-18, 2019.

- ✓ The 2019 theme represents a unique opportunity for circular business model for Make, Use & Return. It presents an opportunity for long term economic prospects and regeneration of materials.
- ✓ The circular economy follows the principle of preservation and enhancement of natural capital by controlling finite stocks and balancing renewable resource flows. It has the potential to increase productivity and create jobs, whilst reducing carbon emissions and preserving valuable raw materials.

**9. Which state government has recently launched online clearance mechanism for entrepreneurs?**

- [A] Kerala                    [B] Assam  
[C] Uttar Pradesh            [D] Rajasthan

- ✓ The K-SWIFT (Kerala Single-window Interface for Fast, Transparent Clearances) has been launched by chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan at ASCEND Kerala 2019. The aim of the online clearance mechanism is to make the state a top investment destination and empower entrepreneurs to launch their enterprises in a speedy and hassle-free manner.
- ✓ K-SWIFT has been developed to simplify and expedite issuance of clearances from departments/agencies for launching enterprises in the state. Here, the proposals of entrepreneurs will get clearance within 30 days of application.

**10. Who has been named EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2018?**

- [A] Satyanarayana Chava            [B] Siddhartha Lal  
[C] Karan Bhagat                    [D] Kishore Biyani

- ✓ Siddhartha Lal, MD & CEO of Eicher Motors Ltd, was named the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2018 at the 20th edition of the EOY Awards in India. He is recognised for engineering the operational and

financial turnaround of the company and reviving the Royal Enfield brand.

- ✓ Lal will now represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEOY) in Monte Carlo from 6 – 8 June 2019. The Entrepreneur Of The Year awards aims to honour entrepreneurs who with their creative ideas and exceptional enterprises have emerged as “Builders of a better India.
- ✓ In addition, Chairman of Wipro group Azim Premji was honoured with the lifetime achievement award for leading Wipro’s transformation from a vegetable oil business into a multi-business technology organization & for putting the Indian information technology industry on the global map.