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### Winmeen Daily Current Affairs

1. Who is the newly appointed Election Commissioner (EC) of India?

[A] Shelesh Bhardwaj

[B] Sushil Chandra

[C] Ashutosh Saxena

[D] Alok Chaudhary

- ✓ Sushil Chandra, an IRS-IT officer of the 1980 batch, has assumed charge as the new Election Commissioner (EC) of India on 15th of February 2019.
- ✓ Prior to joining ECI, he was the Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). With his appointment, the Commission now has Sunil Arora as the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Ashok Lavasa and Mr Chandra as the two commissioners.
- ✓ The Commission is expected to announce the date and the schedule for the Lok Sabha polls by the end of this month.

2. Who is the recipient of the Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony for year 2016?

[A] Ram Sutar Vanji

[B] Chhayanaut

[C] Rajkumar Singhajit Singh

[D] Milind Kumar

- ✓ The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind will present the Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony to Rajkumar Singhajit Singh; Chhayanaut (a cultural organization of Bangladesh); and Ram Sutar Vanji for the years 2014, 2015 & 2016 respectively on 18th of February 2019 at Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra, New Delhi.
- ✓ Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony was instituted by the Government of India from 2012 recognizing the contributions made by Gurudev Rabindranath

Tagore to humanity at large with his works and ideas, as part of the Commemoration of his 150th Birth Anniversary in 2012, for promoting values of Cultural Harmony.

- ✓ It is awarded annually and carries an amount of Rs. One Crore (convertible to foreign currency), a citation in a Scroll, a Plaque as well as an exquisite traditional handicraft ( or handloom) item.

3. India has recently signed Legal Agreements with which international organization for Shimla water supply?

[A] ADB

[B] IMF

[C] AIIB

[D] World Bank

- ✓ On 15th February, the Government of India (GoI), Government of Himachal Pradesh (GoHP) and the World Bank signed a \$40 Million Loan Agreement to help bring clean and reliable drinking water to the citizens of the Greater Shimla area, who have been facing severe water shortages and water-borne epidemics over the last few years.
- ✓ The Shimla Water Supply and Sewerage Service Delivery Reform Programmatic Development Policy Loan 1 is expected to improve water supply and sanitation (WSS) services in and around the iconic hill city of Shimla. The \$40 Million Loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), has a 4-year grace period and a maturity of 15.5 years.

4. What is the theme of the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS-2019)?

[A] Attaining the 2030 Agenda: Delivering on Our Promise.

[B] Attaining the 2050 Agenda: Delivering on Our Promise.

[C] Attaining the 2040 Agenda: Delivering on Our Promise.

[D] Attaining the 2020 Agenda: Delivering on Our Promise.

- ✓ The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is The Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI) annual flagship event.
- ✓ The 2019 edition of WSDS was held in New Delhi with theme 'Attaining the 2030 Agenda: Delivering on Our Promise' on 11th-13th February. It was inaugurated by the Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu.
- ✓ The WSDS brings together Nobel laureates, political leaders, decision-makers from bilateral and multilateral institutions, business leaders, high-level functionaries from the diplomatic corps, scientists and researchers, media personnel, and members of civil society; on a common platform to deliberate on issues related to sustainable development.

5. Which global leader has won the Sustainable Development Leadership Award for year 2019 at WSDS?

[A] Pawan Kumar Chamling

[B] Anand Mahindra

[C] Frank Bainimarama

[D] James Alix Michel

- ✓ Frank Bainimarama, Prime Minister of Fiji, has been conferred with 'Sustainable Development Leadership Award 2019' at the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS-2019) in New Delhi. He won the award for his outstanding contributions towards sustainable development in Fiji.
- ✓ The summit reiterated India's vision for a greener tomorrow and to focus on energy transitions, clean oceans, mobilising development finance, environmental sustainability and sustainable mobility.

- ✓ Over 2000 delegates and speakers from over 40 countries participated in the summit. The summit was organised by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).
- ✓ At the event, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has collaborated with TERI to set up a Resource Efficiency Cell to help frame blueprint for national integrated resource efficiency policy.
- ✓ The cell will enable inter-ministerial and inter-departmental synergy in promoting material resource efficiency in India while helping frame the blueprint of the integrated resource efficiency policy for India.

6. The e-AUSHADHI portal has been launched for online licensing of which of the following drugs?

[A] Ayurveda

[B] Unani

[C] Siddha

[D] All of the above

- ✓ On 13th Feb, Minister of State (IC) for AYUSH, Shripad Yesso Naik launched the e-AUSHADHI portal for online licensing of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy drugs and related matters at New Delhi.
- ✓ The portal is aimed at increasing transparency, and improving information management, data usability and accountability. The acronym for new e-portal is 'Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy Automated Drug Help Initiative'.
- ✓ The timelines would be fixed for processing of applications through the portal with text message and e-mail status updates at each step of the process.
- ✓ This portal will not only aid the licensing authority, manufactures and consumers, as it will provide real time information of the licensed manufactures and their products, cancelled and spurious drugs,

contact details of the concerned authority for specific grievances.

#### 7. Who has been appointed as the chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)?

[A] Pramod Chandra Mody

[B] Poonam Kishore Saxena

[C] Kaiser Chand Bohra

[D] Pritam Jain

- ✓ Pramod Chandra Mody, a 1982 batch Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax cadre), has been appointed as the new chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the top policy making body of income tax department.
- ✓ He succeeded Sushil Chandra, who was named as a new Election Commissioner (EC) of India. The CBDT Chairperson is ex-officio special secretary and is under the direct charge of the revenue secretary of India.
- ✓ He is placed above the officers of the rank of Lieutenant-General, Vice-Admiral or Air Marshal, CBI Director and Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in the Order of Precedence.

#### 8. Which movie has won the best film award at the 72nd Bafta Film Awards 2019?

[A] The Favourite

[B] A Star Is Born

[C] Roma

[D] Bohemian Rhapsody

- ✓ On 10th of February, the 72nd British Academy Film Awards 2019 were held at the Royal Albert Hall in London. Mexican filmmaker Alfonso Cuarón's semi-autobiographical black-and-white drama "Roma" claimed the top prize of best film, alongside director and cinematography honours.

- ✓ "Roma" also won the BAFTA for film not in the English language. "The Favourite" dominated the ceremony with seven wins, including for leading actress (Olivia Colman), supporting actress (Rachel Weisz) and outstanding British film.
- ✓ First-time nominee Rami Malek won the best actor award for his portrayal of Queen frontman Freddie Mercury in biopic "Bohemian Rhapsody". The highest honour 'the BAFTA fellowship' was given to film editor Thelma Schoonmaker, a three-time Oscar winner.
- ✓ The special BAFTA award for outstanding British contribution to cinema was presented to producers Elizabeth Karlsen and Stephen Woolley of Number 9 Films.

#### 9. What is the route of the "Vande Bharat Express"?

[A] New Delhi to Varanasi

[B] Allahabad to Hooghly

[C] Shimla to Kolkata

[D] Mumbai to Chennai

- ✓ India's first engine-less Semi-High Speed Train (SHST), "Vande Bharat Express" has been flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on New Delhi-Kanpur-Allahabad-Varanasi route train from the New Delhi Railway Station on 15th February 2019.
- ✓ Vande Bharat Express can run up to a maximum speed of 160 kmph and has travel classes like Shatabdi Train but with better facilities. It aims to provide a totally new travel experience to passengers. The Train will cover the distance between New Delhi and Varanasi in 8 hours and will run on all days except Mondays and Thursdays. All coaches are equipped with automatic doors, GPS based audio-visual passenger information system, on-board hotspot Wi-Fi for entertainment purposes, and very comfortable seating.
- ✓ All toilets are bio-vacuum type. The lighting is dual mode, viz. diffused for general illumination and personal for every seat.

- ✓ Every coach has a pantry with facility to serve hot meals, hot and cold beverages. The insulation is meant to keep heat and noise to very low levels for additional passenger comfort. The train has 16 air-conditioned coaches of which 2 are executive class coaches. The total seating capacity is 1,128 passengers.

10. India has recently signed a security protection agreement with which Nordic country?

[A] Denmark

[B] Norway

[C] Sweden

[D] Iceland

- ✓ India has recently signed a security protection agreement with Sweden that will enable both countries to share classified information with each other.
- ✓ The agreement was signed on during Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's visit to the Nordic country. Sweden has had similar agreements with over 30 countries around the world, as well as with the EU and NATO.
- ✓ The Nordic countries are generally considered to refer to Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, including their associated territories (Greenland, the Faroe Islands and the Åland Islands).

## Winmeen Daily Current Affairs

1. Which of the following instruments has been declared heritage musical instrument of Goa?

[A] Kanjira

[B] Idakka

[C] Ghumot

[D] Chenda

- ✓ Ghumot, Goa's indigenous traditional percussion instrument made from an earthen vessel, will be notified as a heritage musical instrument of Goa.
- ✓ The instrument was banned due to the use of the skin of the endangered monitor lizard for the drum membrane. In recent years, ghumot makers have started using goat skin instead. The ban is applicable to the use of any animal listed in the Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972, and that the goat is not one of them.
- ✓ The Ghumot is part of religious and folk music of both Hindus and Christians in Goa. It is an essential instrument for the Ganesh festival, during arti and in Suvari Vadan orchestra that performs at Goan temples during spring.
- ✓ Ghumot is part of the Mando, a musical form of the Goan Catholics that combines elements of both Indian and Western music. It is also part of the Zagor folk dance and Dulpod.

2. Which political leader has authored the book 'Undaunted: Saving the Idea of India'?

[A] Shashi Tharoor

[B] P Chidambaram

[C] Arun Jaitley

[D] Sushma Swaraj

- ✓ The book titled 'Undaunted: Saving the Idea of India' has been authored by former finance minister P

Chidambaram, which was recently released by former vice president Hamid Ansari.

- ✓ The book claimed that fear rules the country today and there is a danger that the Constitution will be replaced by a document inspired by Hindutva.
- ✓ According to the author, an economy derailed can be put back on the rails and a society divided can be healed and united but one thing cannot be fixed if it is broken, and that is the Constitution and the constitutional values embodied in that document.
- ✓ At present, every value of the Constitution is under attack — freedom, equality, liberalism, secularism, privacy, scientific temper, etc.

3. Which of the following will be the official mascot for 39th National Games 2022?

[A] Sumatran serow

[B] Gayal

[C] Clouded Leopard

[D] Ox

- ✓ Meghalaya's state animal – Clouded Leopard will be the official mascot for the 39th National Games 2022, which is coinciding with the 50th year of the creation of the state.
- ✓ This decision was taken at the first National Games 2022 executive committee meeting chaired by Meghalaya Sports and Youth Affairs Minister .
- ✓ Meghalaya will be the third northeastern state after Manipur and Assam hosted the National Games in 1999 and 2007, respectively. It had co-hosted the 2016 South Asian Games with its neighbouring state Assam. An estimated 14,450 athletes and officials are expected to visit Meghalaya during the 2022 National Games.
- ✓ Clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*) is one of the wild cats that live throughout the forests of Garo, Khasi and Jaintia Hills. Since 2008, it is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.

4. The 3rd Indo-German Environment Forum was held in which of the following cities?

[A] New Delhi

[B] Pune

[C] Hyderabad

[D] Panaji

- ✓ On 13th Feb, the 3rd Indo-German Environment Forum was held in New Delhi with the theme "Cleaner Air, Greener Economy".
- ✓ The one-day event focuses on challenges, solutions and necessary framework conditions of air pollution control, waste management and circular economy as well as implementation of NDCs and SDGs based on Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030 of UN respectively.
- ✓ Around 250 representatives of ministries, business and science as well as non-governmental organizations participated in the forum, which is organized by the two environment ministries in cooperation with the Asia-Pacific Committee of German Business and the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- ✓ The Forum provided a platform for the bilateral exchange of high-level policy-makers and other key players on international environmental and climate policy and cooperation between the two countries.

5. Which state assembly has passed bill to end the minimum education criterion for panchayat and civic poll candidates?

[A] Chhattisgarh

[B] Rajasthan

[C] Madhya Pradesh

[D] Karnataka

- ✓ The Rajasthan Assembly has recently passed two Bills which seek to end the minimum education criterion for panchayat and civic poll candidates.

- ✓ The House passed by voice vote the Rajasthan Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2019 and the Rajasthan Municipality (Amendment) Bill, 2019. The previous Vasundhara Raje-led government had introduced education criterion in 2015 which required a candidate to pass Class X for contesting zila parishad, panchayat samiti and municipal elections.
- ✓ Defending the bill, Panchayati Raj Minister Sachin Pilot stated that the previous Act was against the basics of the Constitution. Society cannot be divided on the basis of education. He further stated that education criterion should first be introduced for contesting Assembly and parliamentary elections.

6. The 5th International Dam Safety Conference – 2019 was the initiative of which international organisation?

[A] IMF

[B] World Bank

[C] AIIB

[D] ADB

- ✓ The 5th International Dam Safety Conference – 2019 was held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha during 13 and 14 February 2019. It is the joint initiative of the Government of India, Government of Odisha and the World Bank (WB) under aegis of the ongoing World Bank assisted Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) as a part of institutional strengthening.
- ✓ Dam Safety Conferences are being organized as an annual event in different DRIP States in collaboration with the Implementing Agencies and leading academic institutes to provide a common platform for all stakeholders including non-DRIP States.
- ✓ Presently, DRIP covers rehabilitation of 198 large dam projects located in seven States namely Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Uttarakhand. Globally, India ranks third after China and the USA in terms

of the number of large dams with 5264 large dams in operation and 437 large dams under construction.

- ✓ The total storage capacity of the impounded water by these dams is about 283 billion cubic meters (BCM).

7. Which state government has announced a universal old age pension scheme – Mukhyamantri Vridhajan Pension Yojna (MVPY)?

[A] Himachal Pradesh

[B] Odisha

[C] Jharkhand

[D] Bihar

- ✓ On 14th of February, the Bihar government announced a universal old age pension scheme - Mukhyamantri Vridhajan Pension Yojna (MVPY) for all people above 60 years of age. The scheme will come into force from the 1st of April 2019.
- ✓ Except those senior citizens who have retired from government service, all will be eligible for Rs. 400 monthly pension irrespective of caste, religion or community. Currently old age pension scheme is applicable to only the BPL category.
- ✓ The Chief Minister also announced a pension of Rs. 6,000 for journalists above 60 years of age. Those who have been in regular service in the field of media and not getting any other pension will be eligible for Bihar Patrakar Samman Yojana (BPSY).
- ✓ This scheme will also be implemented from the 1st of April 2019.

8. The banned poem 'Khooni Vaisakhi' on Jallianwala massacre will now be published in English. It was authored by whom?

[A] Balwant Gargi

[B] Waris Shah

[C] Nanak Singh

[D] Mohan Singh

- ✓ The poem 'Khooni Vaisakhi' was written by acclaimed Punjabi writer Nanak Singh on the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, which was banned by the British after its publication in 1920. The poem was a scathing critique of the British Raj.
- ✓ Singh was present at Jallianwala Bagh on April 13, 1919. He was 22 years old at the time. As the British troops opened fire on the unarmed gathering protesting against the Rowlatt Act, killing hundreds, Singh fainted and his unconscious body was piled up among the corpses.
- ✓ After going through the traumatic experience, he proceeded to write "Khooni Vaisakhi", a long poem that narrates the political events in the run-up to the massacre and its immediate aftermath. Its manuscript was subsequently lost. After long years, the poem has been rediscovered and now translated into English by the author's grandson and diplomat, Navdeep Suri.
- ✓ It will be published by HarperCollins India next month to mark the centenary of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. Nanak Singh (1897-1971) is widely regarded as the father of the Punjabi novel. With little formal education beyond the fourth grade, he wrote an astounding 59 books and received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1962.

9. The book 'Sudhir Sukta' was written by which acclaimed author, who passed away recently?

[A] Vishnu Wagh

[B] Mangesh Padgaonkar

[C] Arun Kolatkar

[D] Namdeo Dhasal

- ✓ Vishnu Wagh (53), the veteran writer and former deputy speaker of Goa Legislative Assembly, has passed away in Panaji on February 14, 2019. Wagh was a member of the Goa Legislative Assembly from St Andre constituency between 2012 and 2017.



- ✓ He was the chairman of the state-run Goa Kala Academy. He has written over 20 plays in Marathi, three sangeet nataks, 18 Konkani plays and 16 one-act plays. He has directed over 50 plays in Konkani and Marathi.
- ✓ Some of his critically-acclaimed plays include "Tuka Abhang Abhang", "Suvari", "Teen Poishancho Tiatro", "Dharmashree", and "Pedru Poddlo Baiant". He has also written six volumes of poetry.
- ✓ His book of Konkani poems titled 'Sudhir Sukta' has been embroiled in controversy since 2017 for its offensive language and content, and for portraying women in a bad light.
- ✓ The book questions Brahmins and has apparently stirred the volatile caste divide between Goa's dominant Gaud Saraswat Brahmins and the majority Bahujan Goans.

'Operation Batagund' against six terrorists in Hiranpur village near Batgund in Shopian on 25th November 2018.

- ✓ Ashoka Chakra is the highest peacetime military decoration for valour, courageous action or self-sacrifice away from the battlefield.

10. Who has been conferred the Ashoka Chakra for year 2019?

[A] Dinesh Raghu Raman

[B] Nazir Ahmad Wani

[C] Takht Singh

[D] Bachittar Singh

- ✓ Lance Naik Nazir Ahmad Wani has been posthumously awarded 'Ashok Chakra', India's highest peace time gallantry award for his role in a counter-insurgency operation in Kashmir in 2018.
- ✓ The award was presented by President Ram Nath Kovind to his wife Mrs. Mahajabeen at the 2019 Republic Day parade. Wani is the first Kashmiri to be conferred the Ashoka Chakra. He was also awarded Sena Medal for gallantry twice in 2007 and 2018 for his acts of valour.
- ✓ Wani was once a terrorist but had later turned in and joined the Army's 162 Infantry Battalion (Territorial Army) in Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry in 2004.
- ✓ A resident of Cheki Ashmuji of Kulgam district in J&K, he lost his life in a counter-terror operation

## Winmeen Daily Current Affairs

1. Which section of IT Act of 2000 has been scrapped to avoid people being prosecuted?

- A. Section 68A
- B. Section 65A
- C. Section 66A
- D. Section 64A

- ✓ The Supreme Court has recently directed all state governments to sensitize their police personnel about scrapped Section 66A of Information Technology Act of 2000 so that people are not unnecessarily arrested under the provision.
- ✓ The Supreme court has also asked all the high courts to send the copy of the verdict to all the trial courts to avoid people being prosecuted under the scrapped provision. The court disposed off the application filed by an NGO alleging that people were still being prosecuted under the provision.
- ✓ The section 66A of IT Act provided for jail term to people who post offensive content online and it was scrapped by the apex court in March 2015.

2. Which Indian-origin prof has been appointed director of South Africa's Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance?

- A. Bala V. Balachandran
- B. Faizel Ismail
- C. Nitin Nohria
- D. Ashok Jhunjhunwala

- ✓ Professor Faizel Ismail, an Indian-origin global negotiator, has been appointed as the director of a renowned academic institution in South Africa.
- ✓ He will take charge as the director of the University of Cape Town's (UCT) Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance from Professor Alan Hirsch in July 2019. Ismail is known for his role in negotiating major agreements for South Africa, including with the Southern African Customs Union as well as the Trade and Development Agreement with the European Union.

- ✓ He chaired the International Trade and Administration Commission from 2015 to 2018, and was reappointed for a five-year term till 2023. Ismail, a professor at the UCT's School of Economics, has in the past served as an ambassador to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and a senior advisor to the Minister of Trade and Industry.

3. Who is the head of the expert committee on "Determining the Methodology for Fixation of the National Minimum Wage" that submitted its report recent

- A. Anoop Satpathy
- B. Anindhya Singh
- C. Bishnupriya
- D. Gunvant Shah

- ✓ The expert committee under the Chairmanship Dr Anoop Satpathy has recently submitted its report on "Determining the Methodology for Fixation of the National Minimum Wage" to the Government of India (GoI).
- ✓ The report has recommended to fix the need based national minimum wage for India at INR 375 per day (or INR 9,750 per month) as of July 2018, irrespective of sectors, skills, occupations and rural-urban locations for a family comprising of 3.6 consumption unit.
- ✓ It has also recommended to introduce an additional house rent allowance (city compensatory allowance), averaging up to INR 55 per day i.e., INR 1,430 per month for urban workers over and above the NMW.
- ✓ Using the nutritional requirement norms as recommended by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for Indian population, the report has recommended a balanced diet approach which is culturally palatable for fixation of national minimum wage. Accordingly, it has proposed that food items amounting to the level of  $\pm 10\%$  of 2,400 calories, along with proteins  $\geq 50$  gm and fats  $\geq 30$  gm per day per person to constitute a national level balanced food basket.

4. Which of the following municipal corporations has won the first prize at the Swachhata Excellence awards 2019?

A. Raigarh

B. Ambikapur

C. Kumbakonam

D. Greater Hyderabad

- ✓ Chhattisgarh's Raigarh municipal corporation has won the first prize at the "Swachhata Excellence awards 2019". The municipal corporations of Ambikapur and Kumbakonam bagged the second and third prizes, respectively.
- ✓ While, Nagar Palika Parishad of Jashpur Nagar, Malappuram Municipality, and Nagar Palika Parishad Surajpur have claimed the prizes in the "Statutory Towns" category.
- ✓ Beside this, for million-plus cities, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation has won the award. For aspirational districts, Chas Municipal Corporation has been awarded with a consolation prize.

5. The researchers of which country has developed the first ant-like walking robot without GPS?

A. France

B. Germany

C. England

D. Japan

- ✓ The researchers from the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) have developed the first ant-like walking robot 'AntBot' that can explore its environment and find its way home without Global Positioning System (GPS). The scientists took inspiration from desert ants, which are extraordinary solitary navigators, to design the AntBot.
- ✓ Ants use polarised light and ultraviolet radiation to locate themselves in space. Cataglyphis desert ants in particular can cover several hundreds of metres in direct sunlight in the desert to find food, then return in a straight line to the nest, without getting lost.

- ✓ AntBot copies the desert ants' exceptional navigation capacities, allowing it to explore without using GPS. The six-legged robot has an optical compass that uses polarised light to determine its direction, and an optical movement sensor directed to the sun to measure covered distance.

6. "Early Ed Asia 2019" was held in which of the following cities?

A. Jaipur

B. New Delhi

C. Hyderabad

D. Raipur

- ✓ Asia's largest early childhood conference – "Early Ed Asia 2019" was held in Jaipur, Rajasthan with motto 'Our Children. Our Future'. The aim of the conference was to provide a platform for learning, networking and sharing the best practices of early childhood education in Asia.
- ✓ It was organized by the Early Childhood Association, India and ScooNews. The conference brought together the brightest minds in Early Childhood Education to discuss the latest trends in teaching and research to provide a stronger foundation to our children.
- ✓ Over 600 eminent early childhood educators, policy makers, researchers and other stakeholders from India and foreign countries attended the conference. Special delegations of educators from Asia, Europe and the US also attended the conference. It is the first time that a conference of this magnitude is organised around early childhood education in India.

7. Who has become the IAF's first woman flight engineer?

A. Priya Sharma

B. Hina Jaiswal

C. Mohana Singh

D. Pratibha Kumari

- ✓ Flight Lieutenant Hina Jaiswal from Chandigarh has scripted history by becoming the first woman to

be inducted as a flight engineer in the Indian Air Force (IAF) in Bengaluru.

- ✓ In a field dominated by men, Flt Lt Hina successfully completed the course at the 112 Helicopter Unit, Air Force Station, Yelahanka. She will now be posted to a helicopter squadron where she will monitor and operate IAF's complex aircraft in various conditions, right from Siachen Glacier to Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

8. Who has won the men's singles event at the 83rd Senior National Badminton Championships 2019?

- A. Chirag Shetty
- B. Pranaav Jerry Chopra
- C. Lakshya Sen
- D. **Sourabh Verma**

- ✓ In badminton, Sourabh Verma has won the Men's Singles event at the Yonex-Sunrise 83rd Senior National Badminton Championships 2019 in Guwahati.
- ✓ In the final, he defeated Lakshya Sen in straight games of 21-18, 21-13. This is Verma's 3rd nationals title. Earlier, the second seeded makeshift pair of Pranaav Jerry Chopra and Chirag Shetty clinched the men's doubles title after beating top seeds Arjun M R and Shlok Ramchandran 21-13 22-20 in 33 minutes.

9. Where is the headquarters of National Federation of Indian Railwaymen (NFIR)?

- A. Hyderabad
- B. **New Delhi**
- C. Kolkata
- D. Chennai

- ✓ The railway workers union — National Federation of Indian Railwaymen (NFIR) has recently opposed the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project. They asked the government to first prioritize work on existing train routes instead of focusing on the bullet train.
- ✓ Before the bullet train starts running, it is important to undertake repairs and maintenance

work of the tracks across the country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe had launched the bullet train project in Ahmedabad in September 2017.

- ✓ The ambitious project is expected to be completed by 2022 and will cut travel time between the two cities from 7 hours to less than three. The bullet train between Ahmedabad and Mumbai will run a total length of 508 km, of which 21 km will be covered in a tunnel under the sea. The cost of the tunnel is estimated at Rs 3,500 crores. The cost of the total train project is Rs 1.08 lakh crore. The headquarters of NFIR is located at New Delhi.

10. India's first agromet forecast centre has inaugurated in which of the following states?

- A. **Karnataka**
- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Kerala
- D. Telengana

- ✓ The Union Environment Minister, Dr Harsha Vardhan has recently inaugurated the North Karnataka Agromet Forecasting and Research Centre (NKAFC) at the Farmers' Knowledge Centre on University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) in Dharwad.
- ✓ It is the first of its kind in India to boost agricultural activities across the country by taking modern technology to farmers. The main purpose of the centre is to give accurate reports on the weather which would enable the farmers to protect the crops and get a good yield.
- ✓ The centre will also forecast on lightning which causes large-scale destruction of livestock and to farmers. About 25 lakh farmers in the region would be kept updated with information via various platforms like WhatsApp, SMS, social networking sites and community radio stations. The centre has been established by the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences and the India Metrological Department (IMD), in association with UAS.

## Winmeen Daily Current Affairs

1. Which international organization has recently released World Employment and Social Outlook Trends (WESO) 2019?

- A. IMF
- B. ILO
- C. ADB
- D. World Bank

- ✓ The International Labour Organization (ILO) has recently released World Employment and Social Outlook Trends (WESO) 2019 report. As per the report, unemployment rates will fall to 4.9% in 2019 and remains steady in 2020. The new data gathered for the report show that a majority of the 3.3 billion people employed globally in 2018 worked keeping their economic security at risk in informal employment.
- ✓ The quantity of jobless in serious terms is approximated to rise from 172 million to 174 million in that time as the labour market place expands. The report offers worries about the woman workforce participation fee.
- ✓ The considerably lessen labour pressure participation of girls at 48%, as opposed with 75% for adult men signifies that around 3 in 5 of the 3.5 billion persons in the worldwide labour pressure were being guys. The world wide unemployment among younger folks (between 15-24) stood at 11.8%, which is much higher than it is among other age brackets.

2. Which space agency has decided to launch SPHEREx Mission to investigate the origins of our Universe?

- A. NASA
- B. JAXA
- C. Roscosmos
- D. ISRO

- ✓ US space agency NASA has recently unveiled a new space telescope 'SPHEREx' that would begin a two-year mission in 2023 to map the entire sky in order to understand the origins of the universe.

- ✓ The acronym SPHEREx stands for 'Spectro-Photometer for the History of the Universe, Epoch of Reionization and Ices Explorer'. The spacecraft's objective is to learn about how our universe evolved and how common the essential ingredients for life in our galaxy's planetary systems.
- ✓ It will survey the sky in optical as well as near-infrared light which, though not visible to the human eye, serves as a powerful tool for answering cosmic questions. It will map the entire sky every six months to create a map in 96 color bands, and will be searching for water and organic molecules like methanol or acetone in regions where stars and being born and new planets are forming.
- ✓ Astronomers will use the mission to gather data on more than 300 million galaxies, as well as more than 100 million stars in our own Milky Way.

3. Who has won the women's singles event at the 83rd Senior National Badminton Championships 2019?

- A. Jwala Gutta
- B. PV Sindhu
- C. Ashwini Ponnappa
- D. Saina Nehwal

- ✓ In badminton, Saina Nehwal won her fourth title at the Yonex-Sunrise 83rd Senior National Badminton Championships 2019 in Guwahati.
- ✓ In the final, she defeated P.V.Sindhu by 21-18, 21-15 in Guwahati. Its her fourth title. Sourabh Verma completed a hat-trick of titles, claiming the men's singles crown after defeating young Lakshya Sen in straight games of 21-18, 21-13.
- ✓ Earlier, the pair of Pranaav Jerry Chopra and Chirag Shetty outclassed top seed duo Arjun M.R and Shlok Ramachandran in straight games of 21-13, 22-20 to clinch the Men's Doubles title.

4. The 40th International Annual Desert Festival 2019 has started in which district of Rajasthan?

- A. Barmer
- B. Udaipur
- C. Jaisalmer

## D. Jodhpur

- ✓ The 40th edition of International Annual Desert Festival 2019 has started in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan on February 17. Thousands of tourists are participating in the colourful event. The 3-day festival, which exhibits rich cultural heritage of the desert state, commenced with a colourful procession from Gadsisar lake fort.
- ✓ It will have interesting events like Mr Desert and Ms Moomal competitions, moustache competitions, turban tying, tug of war, musical and cultural performances, among others. The Border Security Force presented a camel tattoo show on the opening day of the festival.
- ✓ Before the inaugural ceremony of the festival, organisers kept a two-minute silence in respect of the 40 CRPF personnel who lost their lives in the Pulwama terror attack on 14th Feb.

## 5. Which of the following cricket teams has won the 2019 Irani Cup?

- A. Vidarbha
- B. Rest Of India
- C. Mumbai
- D. Karnataka

- ✓ In cricket, Ranji champions Vidarbha successfully retained their title and defeated Rest of India (RoI) on first-innings basis to win the 2019 Irani Cup tournament in Nagpur. Vidarbha has now become the third team after Mumbai and Karnataka to clinch two Irani Cup titles in a row.
- ✓ Hanuma Vihari from RoI has also become the first player to score 3 consecutive centuries in Irani Cup. Set to chase a target of 280, Vidarbha were well on course at 269 for five, needing only 11 runs for an outright victory. However, the two teams decided to shake hands and settle for a draw. And in a touching gesture, Vidarbha captain Faiz Fazal announced that the entire prize money will be donated to the families of the CRPF personnel martyred in Pulwama terror attack.

## 6. Which country has won the team event at the first Mallakhamb World Championship 2019?

- A. Singapore
- B. India
- C. Iran
- D. Malaysia

- ✓ India emerged as winners in the team event at the first-ever Mallakhamb World Championship at Shivaji Park in central Mumbai on February 17. In the two-day tournament, approx 100 participants from 15 countries - Spain, Germany, Czech Republic, Italy, USA, Iran, Norway, England, France, Malaysia, Singapore, Japan, Vietnam, Bahrain, and hosts India – competed.
- ✓ The team championship was won by India with 244.73 points, while Singapore stood second with 44.45 and Malaysia came third with 30.22 points. During the event, German mallakhamb team coach Ruth Anzenberger presented an audio-visual presentation about the workshops and practice of the ancient Indian sport held in his country.
- ✓ The German team also demonstrated their skills on rope as well as pole mallakhamb. The traditional sport is characterised by athletes performing a variety of yogic and gymnastic poses while suspended from a rope or on a pole.

## 7. Who has been conferred the first-ever 'Football Ratna' by Football Delhi?

- A. Subrata
- B. Bhaichung Bhutia
- C. Sunil Chhetri
- D. Gurpreet Singh Sandhu

- ✓ Sunil Chhetri, the all-time leading scorer for India in international football, has been conferred the first-ever 'Football Ratna' by Football Delhi, the State Association governing the sport in Delhi.
- ✓ Chhetri was recently named as the 6th Indian Footballer in the elite Padma Shri list of 2019. Popularly known as Captain Fantastic, he scored 2nd highest number of goals in international matches among active players after Cristiano

Ronaldo. He has also been named AIFF Player of the Year five times in 2007, 2011, 2013, 2014 and 2017.

8. Which state assembly has recently passed a Bill to make Sanskrit the 2nd official language of the state?

- A. Nagaland
- B. Sikkim
- C. Karnataka
- D. Himachal Pradesh**

- ✓ On February 16, the Himachal Pradesh Assembly passed a Bill to make Sanskrit as the second official language of the state. The Himachal Pradesh Official Language Bill, 2019 (Amendment) was introduced by Irrigation and Public Health Minister Mahender Singh Thakurin the ongoing budget session.
- ✓ The bill was passed without any discussion. The first official language of Himachal is Hindi. The state's name was coined from the Sanskrit—Him means 'snow' and achal means 'land' or 'abode'—by Acharya Diwakar Datt Sharma, one of the state's eminent Sanskrit scholars. According to a survey of CMS - India Corruption Study 2017, Himachal Pradesh is India's least corrupt state.

9. Which Indian official has been appointed by UN as Controller & ASG in DMSPC?

- A. Chandramouli Ramanathan**
- B. Snehlata Shrivastava
- C. Ram Shankar Kartheria
- D. Mahesh Sharma

- ✓ Chandramouli Ramanathan from India has been appointed by the United Nations as Controller & Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) for Programme Planning, Budget and Finance in the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance (DMSPC).
- ✓ He succeeded Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas of Uruguay. DMSPC, launched on 1st January 2019, provides strategic policy leadership in all areas of management through a clear, integrated global management strategy and policy framework. It will

champion, drive and support a results-oriented and risk-aware culture of continuous learning and accountability and promote innovation in business models throughout the Secretariat, with a strong focus on the field.

10. Which IT giant has launched learning app 'InfyTQ' for engineering students?

- A. Wipro
- B. Microsoft
- C. Infosys**
- D. Facebook

- ✓ India's second-largest IT services firm, Infosys has launched a digital platform 'InfyTQ' to offer learning and engagement experiences to engineering students in the country. InfyTQ is a free platform open to all engineering students in their 3rd and 4th years across India.
- ✓ The platform encourages holistic development by imparting technical as well as professional skills, helping them become industry-ready. InfyTQ, available on both mobile and desktop, includes content, courses, and news as well as online assessments and certification.
- ✓ Through app, students will benefit from the always-on, anytime, anywhere learning, catered through a continuous transfer of digital skills and expertise from the Infosys innovation ecosystem. In addition, the platform also offers courses on professional skills to help students navigate the art of effective contextual response, inter-personal relationships, communication and e-mail, and etiquette, among others.

## Winmeen Daily Current Affairs

1. India's first-ever diesel to electric converted locomotive twin engine has been flagged off at which city?

- A. Varanasi
- B. Delhi
- C. Ranchi
- D. Shimla

- ✓ On 19th Feb, Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the first ever diesel to electric converted locomotive twin engine of ten thousand Horse Power at DLW Varanasi. It's a complete 'Make in India' initiative & the conversion is an Indian R & D innovation for the entire world.
- ✓ The Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW) has converted two WDG3A diesel locos into a Twin Electric WAGC3 loco of 10,000 HP. The converted locos will result in less green house gas emissions and better efficient locomotives for the Indian Railways. The feat was achieved in record time with the help of engineers from Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO), Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW), and Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL).
- ✓ According to railway authorities, the conversion of diesel locomotive into electric engine not only created a history but also proved to be cost effective, as it needed half of the rehabilitation cost of old locos. Besides, it would be environment-friendly with enhanced traction power to double the average speed of goods train.

2. Which of the following is the pan-India helpline number launched by Government of India under Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)?

- A. 114
- B. 112
- C. 113
- D. 116

- ✓ The Government of India (GoI) has launched a pan-India service of the single emergency helpline number '112' for immediate assistance services from

police (100), fire (101), health (108) and women (1090). The response time for the emergency helpline is said to be around 10 to 12 minutes.

- ✓ This is expected to come down to 8 minutes within the next 6-8 months. The Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) is now available in 16 states and union territories across India. These are as follows: Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Puducherry, Lakshwadeep, Andaman, Dadar Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Jammu and Kashmir.
- ✓ Apart from emergency response service, the government also launched Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences (ITSSO) and the safe city implementation monitoring portal to improve women safety situation in the country.

3. India's first district cooling system will come up in which of the following cities?

- A. Hyderabad
- B. Bangaluru
- C. Amaravati
- D. Chennai

- ✓ The Andhra Pradesh government has signed a 30 year concession agreement with the UAE-based company "National Central Cooling Company PJSC (DFM: Tabreed)" to offer District Cooling solutions to the greenfield city of Amaravati.
- ✓ The agreement PJSC (DFM: Tabreed)" to offer District Cooling solutions to the greenfield city of Amaravati. The agreement is for a contracted cooling capacity of 20,000 refrigeration tons (RTs) that will build, own, operate and transfer India's first district cooling system in Amaravati, the new capital of Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ The cooling services will start from early 2021. Tabreed's district cooling system is a part of Andhra Pradesh's vision for Amaravati to create jobs and homes along with a world-class infrastructure and efficient resource management. Compared to other cooling systems, district cooling uses only 50% of



the primary energy consumption for cooling urban buildings, thereby reducing CO2 emissions.

- ✓ It also helps in improving the air quality and reducing general noise levels when compared to other traditional air conditioning systems. This will be Tabreed's first plant outside its Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) market.

#### 4. Who is the recipient of the 2019 Martin Ennals human rights prize?

- A. Hassan Saleh
- B. Abdul Aziz Muhamat**
- C. Behrouz Boochani
- D. Miral al-Tahawy

- ✓ Abdul Aziz Muhamat, a Sudanese refugee detained on Manus Island, has won the prestigious 2019 Martin Ennals human rights prize for exposing the very cruel refugee policy of the Australian government. Recognized as a true leader, human rights and humanitarian advocate, Muhamat has tirelessly cared for fellow refugees, and eloquently drawn the world's attention to their plight.
- ✓ It is the first time that the major prize has been awarded to an individual focused on refugee issues and who has been a victim of human rights violations by a Western democracy. Muhamat was stuck in an Australia's notorious offshore detention centre on Manus Island in Papua New Guinea for over 5 years after his boat was intercepted by Australian authorities in 2013.
- ✓ Mr Muhamat has been permitted to leave the island since being granted a Swiss visa, but hopes to return to Manus to continue his advocacy work. The annual Martin Ennals Awards are named after a Nobel Peace Prize-winning British human rights activist.

#### 5. Who is the author of the book 'Simplicity & Wisdom'?

- A. Jeet Thayil
- B. Ahmed Mourad
- C. Dinesh Shahra**
- D. Ravi Subramanian

- ✓ The book titled 'Simplicity & Wisdom' has been authored by famous Industrialist and Philanthropist Dinesh Shahra. It was launched by Keshari Nath Tripathi, Governor of West Bengal, at Parmarth Ashram in the ongoing Kumbh Mela 2019.
- ✓ The book is dedicated to Late eminent Vedanti Swami Pragananandji. The primary aim of the book is to offer saintly wisdom and guidance to lead a content and happy life.

#### 6. Who has been designated as a brand ambassador for global sportswear giant PUMA India?

- A. Swapna Barman
- B. Nirmala Sheoran
- C. Dutee Chand
- D. Mary Kom**

- ✓ Six-time world women boxing champion, MC Mary Kom has been named as a brand ambassador for global sportswear giant PUMA for a two-year period. She will be PUMA India's new ambassador for the company's women's training category and shall represent the brand in marketing campaigns in the country.

#### 7. Which India-based NGO has won the 2019 Laureus Sport for Good award?

- A. Faith
- B. Ekjut
- C. Yuwa**
- D. Amar Jyoti

- ✓ Yuwa, a Jharkhand-based NGO which works for girl empowerment, has won the prestigious 2019 Laureus Sport for Good Honour at Monaco. The NGO was founded in rural Jharkhand in 2009 by Americans Franz Gastler and Rose Thomson Gastler.
- ✓ They are using football to improve the lives of young girls from disadvantaged communities and from regions where child marriage is prevalent. They are currently covering 450 girls - some amateurs and some who have gone on to become coaches.

- ✓ It was only the third time the honour was coming to India. The first time was in 2004 when the cricket teams of India and Pakistan were jointly declared the winner for resuming the bilateral series despite the political tension between the countries. Then 10 years later, Magic Bus won it for transforming the lives of the underprivileged children in the country.

8. Agasthyarkoodam peak is located in which of the following states?

- A. Odisha
- B. Kerala**
- C. Karnataka
- D. Andhra Pradesh

- ✓ K Dhanya Sanal, a spokesperson for the defence ministry in Thiruvananthapuram, has created history by becoming the first woman to climb the peak of 1,868-metre-high Agasthyarkoodam in January 2019 after the High court removed traditional restrictions on women from scaling the peak.
- ✓ Agasthyarkoodam is a part of the Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve which lies on the border between the states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The Kani tribe that lives on the foothills opposes women attempting the trek. The mountain range is considered the holy abode of celibate sage Agastya Muni. The tribe has protested against letting women climb the peak, but has not stopped anyone. Over 100 of them sang folk songs as a mark of protest.

9. Red Coral Kukri, sometimes seen in news, is related to which class of reptiles?

- A. Turtles
- B. Snakes**
- C. Lizards
- D. Crocodilians

- ✓ A rare Indian snake species - Red Coral Kukri- has recently sighted in the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR) after a gap of 82 years. The reptile was first sighted in Dudhwa in 1936 and even its zoological name

'oligodon Kheriensis' finds its roots in its Kheri-specific location.

- ✓ According to experts, Red Coral Kukri is a nocturnal non venomous reptile with maximum length of 114 cm. It is known as red coral kukri owing to its red orange colour and its teeth shaped as Nepali 'khukri' to break eggs. The species has been sighted in Terai forests of Kheri and Nepal.
- ✓ The Kheri-location specific snake is generally found in the Terai forest, a lowland region in southern Nepal and northern india.

10. Which state government has recently constituted a Transgender Welfare Board (TWB)?

- A. Gujarat**
- B. Jharkhand
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Himachal Pradesh

- ✓ The Gujarat government has formed a special board for the transgender community to provide social security to the community. As a state-run agency, the 'Transgender Welfare Board (TWB)' will have powers to introduce special schemes for the community. It will work for uplift and development of the transgender community. The new board will have the state social justice and empowerment minister as its chairman.
- ✓ It will have 16 other members, including two transgender-women representatives, two male transgenders, two from the eunuch community and two representatives of NGOs. The rest of the members will be government officials. The Supreme Court has recognized transgenders as a third gender in 2014 on a petition filed by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and had directed all states to form a TWB.
- ✓ The judgment also ruled that 'third gender' be included in the Other Backward Classes' (OBCs) list, hence allowed them to avail education and employment reservation in accordance to this status.

## Winmeen Daily Current Affairs

1. India's first full-dome 3D Digital theatre inaugurated in which of the following cities?

- A. New Delhi
- B. Pune
- C. Kolkata
- D. Hyderabad

✓ India's first 'full-dome 3D Digital Theatre' was inaugurated by Union Culture Minister Mahesh Sharma at the Science City in Kolkata, West Bengal. The new system is capable of screening high resolution, full dome, and digital 2D/3D content by utilising six, high-end projectors in a 23-meter diameter dome using Ulteria Seam technology. The Science City is operated by the National Council of Science Museums under the Ministry of Culture.

2. Which country has launched its first semi-heavy missile-equipped submarine 'Fateh'?

- A. Iran
- B. Oman
- C. Saudi Arabia
- D. Pakistan

✓ Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has recently launched the country's first semi-heavy missile-equipped submarine, dubbed as Fateh ('Conqueror' in Persian). The new submarine will fill a gap between the light Ghadir class and the heavy Kilo-class submarines that the country possesses. The Fateh has subsurface-to-surface missiles with a range of about 2,000 kilometers (1,250 miles), capable of reaching Israel and U.S. military bases in the region.

3. Wallace Smith Broecker, the renowned Climate scientist has passed away. He was from which country?

- A. Germany
- B. United States
- C. France
- D. Italy

- ✓ Prof. Wallace Smith Broecker (87), a scientist who raised early alarms about climate change and popularized the term "global warming", has passed away in New York, United States. He brought "global warming" into common use with a 1975 paper that correctly predicted rising carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere would lead to pronounced warming.
- ✓ He was also an advocate for political action to deal with the problem. Broecker was also a pioneer in radiocarbon and isotope dating and became the first person to recognise what he called the ocean conveyor belt, a global network of currents affecting everything from air temperature to rain patterns. He joined Columbia's faculty in 1959 and was known in science circles as the "Grandfather of Climate Science".

4. Namvar Singh, who passed away recently, was the renowned writer of which language?

- A. Odia
- B. Bengali
- C. Hindi
- D. Urdu

✓ Prof. Namvar Singh (92), renowned Hindi literary critic and author, has passed away in New Delhi on Feb 19. Born on 28th July 1926 in a village in Varanasi, Singh was the first chairman of JNU's Centre of Indian Languages. He had authored over a dozen books including 'Chhayavad' and 'Dusri Parampara Ki Khoj' among others. He received Sahitya Academy Award for literary criticism in 1971 for 'Kavita Ke Naye Pratiman'. He had unsuccessfully contested Lok Sabha election as a candidate of Communist Party of India in 1957 from Chandauli in Uttar Pradesh.

5. Which sportswoman has won the 2019 Qatar Open Tennis title?

- A. Garbine Muguruza
- B. Venus Williams
- C. Simona Halep

**D. Elise Mertens**

- ✓ In tennis, Belgium's Elise Mertens has claimed the biggest title of her career by beating top seed Simona Halep 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 to win the Qatar Open in Doha. This is her first WTA Premier-level crown and fifth title of her overall career.

**6. Who won the World Sportsman of the Year award at the 2019 Laureus World Sports Honours?**

- A. M S Dhoni
- B. Tiger Woods
- C. Virat Kohli

**D. Novak Djokovic**

- ✓ Gymnast Simone Biles and tennis player Novak Djokovic won the top prizes at the 2019 Laureus World Sports Awards in Monaco. Djokovic won the Sportsman of the Year award after claiming victory at both the US Open and Wimbledon. While, Biles was named Sportswoman of the Year after winning four gold medals, one silver and one bronze at the 2018 World Championships. Golfer Tiger Woods won the Comeback award, while tennis player Naomi Osaka won Breakthrough of the Year.
- ✓ The other winners of the night were Chloe Kim (Action Sportsperson), Eliud Kipchoge, Arsene Wenger (Lifetime Achievement), Lindsey Vonn (Spirit for Sports), Jharkhand-based NGO Yuwa (Sport for Good) and Xia Boyu (Sporting Moment), the man who climbed Mount Everest, 44 years after he lost both his lower legs due to frostbite on his first attempt.

**7. Which insurance company has launched a new micro insurance plan "Micro Bachat"?**

- A. LIC
- B. ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
- C. Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance
- D. Max Life Insurance

- ✓ Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has recently launched a new micro insurance plan 'Micro Bachat'. It is a regular premium, non-linked, participating endowment micro insurance plan,

which offers a combination of protection and savings. For the first time, a micro insurance plan has been launched providing coverage up to Rs 2 lakh.

- ✓ This plan provides financial support for the family in case of unfortunate death of the policyholder during the policy term and a lumpsum amount at the time of maturity for the surviving policyholders. This plan is available for standard healthy lives only in the age group of 18-55 years without undergoing any medical examination. The policyholder need not undergo any medical examination.

**8. Who won the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 7th National Photography Awards?**

- A. Shanth Kumar
- B. Gurdeep Dhiman
- C. Ashok Dilwali
- D. Kirti Das

- ✓ The 7th National Photography Awards 2019 were presented by Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore at a function held at the National Media Centre on 19th Feb. In it, ace photographer Ashok Dilwali has been bestowed with the Life Time Achievement Award, who is known for his work on the Himalayas. A total of 13 awards carrying cash prizes were presented to the winners in professional and amateur categories.
- ✓ Shanth Kumar won the 'Professional Photographer of the Year' award, while Gurdeep Dhiman won award for 'Amateur Photographer of the Year'. The theme for the Professional category was "Women-led Development" and theme for Amateur category was "Fairs and Festivals of India".

**9. Which state government has decided to host the 79th session of Indian History Congress (IHC)?**

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Tamil Nadu

- ✓ The Madhya Pradesh government has decided to host the 79th session of Indian History Congress (IHC) at Barkatullah University in Bhopal from February 26 to 28, 2019. The 79th session was earlier supposed to be held at the Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) from December 28 but was cancelled due to financial reasons. Over 1,000 delegates including prominent historians are expected to participate in the IHC.
- ✓ This will be 2nd time Madhya Pradesh will host IHC after it was held earlier in 2011. IHC is the largest professional and academic body of Indian historians with over 10,000 members. It was established in 1935 and its first session was held at Bharat Itihas Sanshodhak Mandal, Pune. Its primary objective is to promote and encourage scientific study of Indian history.

10. Operation Digital Board is associated with which of the following purposes?

- A. Railway Tracking
- B. Cyber Security
- C. e-banking services
- D. Digitization of education**

- ✓ In a bid to go digital in classrooms, the Union Human Resources Development Ministry has launched Operation Digital Board on the lines of Operation Blackboard of 1987, which was started with the purpose of providing minimum basic facilities to all primary schools. The programme will be implemented in schools from this academic year to provide better digital education. Under the programme, 7 lakh classrooms of 9th, 10th and 11th standards and two lakh classrooms of colleges and Universities will be equipped with digital boards by 2022. It will improve the quality of education and offer new opportunities and new ways of teaching and learning. The initiative will convert the monologue classrooms into interactive ones. The move will revolutionize the education system in the country with different kinds of digital teaching materials, quality lectures and other facilities.