

**March
2019**

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**Second Week
Current Affairs**

8th Mar - 14th Mar



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Winmeen Current Affairs

1. Which tech giant has launched 'Bolo' app to tutor children to read in Hindi & English?

A. Google

B. Microsoft

C. Facebook

D. Infosys

- ✓ Tech giant Google has recently launched a new app 'Bolo' that aims to help children in primary school learn to read in Hindi and English. The free app, which is being launched in India first, uses Google's speech recognition and text-to-speech technology.
- ✓ The app features an animated character 'Diya', who encourages children to read stories aloud and helps if the child is unable to pronounce a word. It also lauds the reader when she completes the reading.
- ✓ The Bolo app will be available on Google Play Store in India for all smartphones running Android 4.4 (Kit Kat) and higher, and can also work offline. To ensure safety of the child, all personal information always stays on device. The users are also not asked for details like email ID and gender for logging into the app.

2. Who is the head of the committee to review cases against tribals in naxal-hit areas of Chhattisgarh?

A. Vishweshwar Bhat

B. Kapil Mishra

C. A K Patnaik

D. Bijal Vachharajani

- ✓ The Congress government in Chhattisgarh has recently constituted a high-level committee under a retired Supreme Court judge to review cases against tribals who are in prison for alleged involvement in Left-Wing Extremism (LWE).
- ✓ This marks a shift from the stance adopted by the previous BJP government which was often accused of targeting social rights activists working in Naxal-affected districts. The panel, headed by Justice (ret'd) A K Patnaik, will review the cases

registered against people belonging to Scheduled Tribes (ST) in the naxal-affected area.

3. Which state government has decided to teach ancient tribal language Gondi in tribal districts?

A. Rajasthan

B. Madhya Pradesh

C. Jharkhand

D. Bihar

- ✓ Madhya Pradesh, ancient tribal language Gondi will be taught in tribal districts to save it from becoming a thing of the past.
- ✓ The rapid decline in the number of people who speak that tongue is a matter of concern; hence, Chief Minister Kamal Nath has decided to include Gondi in the primary education curriculum of the state's tribal-dominated districts.

4. Where is the headquarters of National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG)?

A. New Delhi

B. Pune

C. Chennai

D. Dehradun

- ✓ The National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) to ensure better utilisation of infrastructure facilities during training programmes.
- ✓ The NCGG has been set up by the Government of India (GoI) under the aegis of DARPG (Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances). It aims to promote good governance through capacity building on public policy and governance both at national and international level and carrying out studies research on issues relating to governance.
- ✓ Its head office is at New Delhi. The IICA, registered as a society, is under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs with the primary objective of establishing, managing, maintaining and running a world class institute.

5. "Al Nagah 2019" is the joint exercise between India and which of the following countries?

- A. Iran
- B. Israel
- C. UAE
- D. Oman

- ✓ The 3rd edition of the bilateral joint exercise "Al Nagah 2019" is scheduled to be held between India and Oman from 12th to 25th March at Jabel Al Akhdar Mountains in Oman.
- ✓ In the exercise, both the armies will exchange expertise and experience in tactics, weapon handling and firing. The aim of this exercise is to enhance interoperability in counter terrorist operations in semi urban mountainous terrain.

6. The Rice Knowledge Bank, which is in news recently, has been launched in which of the following states?

- A. West Bengal
- B. Jharkhand
- C. Assam
- D. Andhra Pradesh

- ✓ The Rice Knowledge Bank – Assam (RKB-Assam) is an agriculture web portal i.e. dedicated to enhancing knowledge on rice production techniques, agricultural technologies, best production practices and state agriculture facts.
- ✓ It serves to address the challenges for agricultural development by supporting fast and effective transfer of technologies and knowledge from the research laboratory to farmer's fields.
- ✓ RKB-Assam has been launched as part of the World Bank funded project- Assam Agri-business and Rural Transformation (APART).
- ✓ The portal is the result of efforts of Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Services Society (ARIAS), Assam Agricultural University (AAU); with technical assistance from International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).

7. Who has been conferred the first Atal Behari Vajpayee LTA by the Tripura Government?

- A. Khagesh Dev Burman
- B. Chandrakanta Murasingh
- C. Gokulanada Gitiswami
- D. Thanga Darlong

- ✓ Thanga Darlong, the 99-year old tribal musician and music guru, has been conferred the first Atal Behari Vajpayee Life Time Award for preserving the musical form during the 37th Agartala Book Fair in Tripura.
- ✓ Darlong is the last tribal musician to play Rosem – a bamboo made a flute-like musical instrument. Earlier, in January 2019, he was conferred with the prestigious Padma Shri award for his contribution to the field of music.
- ✓ Born on 20th July 1920 at Muruai village of Tripura, Thanga Darlong was initially trained in folk music from his father Hakvunga Darlong.
- ✓ He was later taught and groomed in the nuances of playing Rosem – a traditional musical instrument of the Darlong community by traditional music maestro Darthuama Darlong. In 2016, he was also showcased in 'Tree of Tongues in Tripura', directed by the National Awards winner Joshy Joseph Josy Joseph.

8. Which of the following IT companies has signed pact with the Andhra Pradesh government to build 3D printing centre in the state?

- A. Hewlett Packard
- B. Microsoft
- C. Google
- D. Wipro

- ✓ Hewlett Packard India has recently signed a MoU with the Andhra Pradesh Innovation Society (APIS) and Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB) to build a Center of Excellence (CoE) for Additive Manufacturing (AM) powered by HP's 3D printing technology.
- ✓ APIS would provide infrastructural support and enable necessary certifications and accreditations while APEDB will drive and encourage the usage of

the CoE by government departments, defence and public sector enterprises.

- ✓ The CoE is part of the state government's vision to accelerate adoption of 3D printing in various industry sectors such as automotive, aerospace, defence, consumer goods, healthcare, apparel and construction.
- ✓ It will be equipped with HP's 3D printers that can handle short run production and functional prototyping. The 3D printing centre would give Small and Medium Businesses (SMBs) and start-ups in Andhra Pradesh an opportunity to learn more about the benefits of Additive Manufacturing (AM).

9. Who has been nominated by India to head Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)?

- A. Nandini Harinath
- B. Ritu Karidhal
- C. Trilochan Mohapatra
- D. Ramesh Chand**

- ✓ The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has recently said that five candidates have been presented by FAO member countries for the post of Director-General, to be elected in June 2019.
- ✓ The 194 members will cast their vote on a 'one country, one vote' basis in a secret ballot that requires a simple majority for a valid outcome. In it, India has nominated NITI Aayog member and agricultural economics and policy expert Ramesh Chand to lead a specialised agency of the United Nations focussed on achieving food security for all.
- ✓ The other candidates are Qu Dongyu of China, Medi Moungui of Cameroon, Catherine Geslain-Laneelle of France and Davit Kirvalidze of Georgia. The next Director-General of FAO will be appointed for the period August 1, 2019 to July 31, 2023 and will be eligible for only one additional mandate of four years.

10. How many science and technology missions have been identified under PM-STIAC?

- A. 9**

- B. 8
- C. 7
- D. 5

- ✓ The Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) has identified nine Science and Technology missions with focus on 'Science for People and People for Science'.
- ✓ These missions include Natural Language Translation (NLT), Quantum Frontier, Artificial Intelligence (AI), National Biodiversity Mission (NBM), Electric Vehicles, Bioscience for Human Health, Waste to Wealth, Deep Ocean Exploration and AGNIi (Accelerating Growth for New India's Innovations).
- ✓ The missions are aimed at understanding and conserving biodiversity, developing sustainable agricultural processes, leveraging precision health for personal well-being, recovering wealth from waste, developing and using AI, quantum computing, connected mobility solutions and other technologies to address frontier scientific questions and the challenges that the country in particular and the planet in general face.

Winmeen Current Affairs

1. Rome Statute, sometimes seen in news, is related to which of the following organizations?

A. International Criminal Court

B. Food and Agriculture Organization

C. UNIDO

D. World Bank

- ✓ Malaysia has become the 124th member of the International Criminal Court (ICC) after ratifying the Rome Statute. It joined the ICC because of the following reasons: Firstly, the downing of Malaysian Airlines flight MH17 in Ukraine and the Rohingya crisis.
- ✓ Secondly, the May 2018 election of Mahathir Mohamad for his 2nd stint as Prime Minister has brought a significant shift in the relationship between the Malaysian government and monarchy.
- ✓ Thirdly, the election of Mahathir and appointment of a new Attorney General, Tommy Thomas, has seen the main legal obstacles to ratification removed. Finally, Malaysia's decision to ratify the Rome Statute has also been driven by Mahathir's stated ambition to see his country "play a more active role" in ASEAN and the United Nations.
- ✓ Hence, it is third country of the 10 member states of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), to ratify Rome Statute after Cambodia and Philippines. However, Philippines has announced its withdrawal from the ICC and it is set to take effect from 19th March 2019. Earlier, Burundi became the first country to quit the court in 2017.

2. Which space agency has decided to carry out first all-female spacewalk at the International Space Station (ISS)?

A. Roscosmos

B. NASA

C. ISRO

D. JAXA

- ✓ The US space agency NASA has recently announced that it will carry out first all-female spacewalk at

the International Space Station (ISS) on 29th March 2019.

- ✓ Astronauts - Christina Koch and Anne McClain - will walk outside the ISS on a mission to replace batteries installed last summer.
- ✓ They will get ground support from Canadian Space Agency flight controller Kristen Facciol at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston. In addition to two space walkers and the flight controller, Mary Lawrence will take the helm as lead flight director and Jackie Kagey will be the lead flight controller.
- ✓ Earlier, Soviet cosmonaut Svetlana Savitskaya became the first woman to carry out a spacewalk on 25 July 1984.

3. Who is the head of the Joint Working Group (JWG) which is formed by the IRDAI & NHA to curb fraud in Ayushman Bharat scheme?

A. Rajiv Kumar

B. Amitabh Kant

C. Suresh Mathur

D. Dinesh Arora

- ✓ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and the National Health Authority (NHA) have formed a Joint Working Group (JWG) to curb fraud in the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).
- ✓ The 11-member group, with NHA Deputy CEO Dinesh Arora as the chair and IRDAI Executive Director Suresh Mathur as the co-chair, would submit a report within 6 months on how to detect and deter fraud through a common repository and capacity-building.
- ✓ The JWG will develop standards for field verifications and investigations besides guidelines to "name and shame" fraudsters. It will also take up a comparative study of packages and their rates, besides defining standards.
- ✓ Additionally, it will suggest common IT infrastructure for health insurance claims management to increase efficiency and transparency among stakeholders.

- ✓ The AB-PMJAY is the health insurance scheme for availing secondary and tertiary care, cashless treatment at empanelled private and public hospitals across the country to families listed in SECC (Socio-Economic Caste Census) 2011. Eligible families get Rs 5 lakh per year.

4. Which Indian-American personality has been appointed as new UNDP Goodwill Ambassador?

- A. Kal Penn
- B. Alpana Singh
- C. Padma Lakshmi
- D. Mira Nair

- ✓ Indian-American television personality and internationally acclaimed food expert, Padma Lakshmi has been appointed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as its newest Goodwill Ambassador on the eve of International Women's Day (IWD-2019).
- ✓ In this new role, Lakshmi will mobilise support for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a focus on fighting inequality, discrimination and empowering the disenfranchised.

5. What is the theme of the 2019 International Women's Day (IWD)?

- A. Women in the Changing World of Work
 - B. Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change
 - C. Equality for Women is Progress for All
 - D. Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality
- ✓ The International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated every year on 8th of March to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.
 - ✓ The purpose of the 2019 theme "Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change" is to achieve gender equality by putting innovation by women and girls, for women and girls, at the heart of efforts.
 - ✓ The Campaign theme of 2019 IWD "#BalanceforBetter" would provides a unified direction to guide and galvanize continuous

collective action with campaign's activity reinforced and amplified all year.

6. Kiru Hydro Electric Project, which is in news recently, is located on which of the following rivers?

- A. Narmada
- B. Ganga
- C. Kaveri
- D. Chenab

- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has recently approved the investment sanction for construction of 624 MW Kiru Hydro Electric Project on River Chenab in Kishtwar district of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K).
- ✓ The project will be implemented at an estimated cost of Rs.4287.59 crore and is scheduled to be completed in a period of 4 1/2 years. The Kiru HE Project is visualized as a Run of River (RoR) Scheme & designed complying with the requirements of Indus Water Treaty 1960.
- ✓ The Project would generate 2272.02 MU in a 90% dependable year. The CCEA also approved the investment for 1320 Mega Watt Khurja Super Thermal Power Plant at Bulandshahar in Uttar Pradesh.

7. Who has been appointed new director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)?

- A. Satheesh Reddy
- B. Ajit Kumar Mohanty
- C. Koppillil Radhakrishnan
- D. P S Murthy

- ✓ Distinguished scientist Dr Ajit Kumar Mohanty has been appointed new Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) for a period of 3 years.
- ✓ He is at present Director, Physics Group, in BARC and Director, Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics. The BARC is India's premier nuclear research facility based in Mumbai.
- ✓ It is a multi-disciplinary research centre with extensive infrastructure for advanced research and

development covering the entire spectrum of nuclear science, engineering and related areas.

8. Who will chair the National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage?

A. Amitabh Kant

B. Rajiv Kumar

C. Subhash Chandra Garg

D. Sanjay Mitra

- ✓ The Union Cabinet has approved the National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage to promote clean, connected, shared, sustainable and holistic mobility initiatives in the country. The multi-disciplinary mission with an Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee will be chaired by NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant.
- ✓ The mission will also launch the Phased Manufacturing Programmes (PMP) for Batteries and for Electric Vehicle components. The PMPs will be valid for five years till 2024 to support setting up of a few large scale, export competitive integrated batteries and cell manufacturing Giga plants in India.
- ✓ The programme will provide a plan which will send a clear signal to the industry to make the necessary investments in capacity to localize the value chain.
- ✓ Hence, the creation of a PMP would localise production along the entire electric vehicles value chain. The mission will also coordinate with key stakeholders in ministries/ departments and states to integrate various initiatives to transform mobility in India.

9. What would be the funding pattern between Centre & North Eastern States for the newly approved Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP) scheme?

A. 80:20

B. 70:30

C. 90:10

D. 60:40

- ✓ The Union Cabinet has recently approved the "Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP)" for Flood Management Works in entire country and River Management Activities and works related to Border Areas for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20 with a total outlay of Rs.3342.00 crores.
- ✓ The FMBAP Scheme will be implemented throughout the country for effective flood management, erosion control and anti-sea erosion. The proposal will benefit towns, villages, industrial establishments, communication links, agricultural fields, infrastructure etc.
- ✓ from floods and erosion in the country. The catchment area treatment works will help in reduction of sediment load into rivers. The funding pattern for FM Component for works in general category States will continue to be 50% (Centre) : 50% (State).
- ✓ For projects of North Eastern states, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the Centre will bear 70% of the cost. The aim of the Scheme is to assist the State Governments to provide reasonable degree of protection against floods in critical areas by adopting optimum combination of structural and non-structural measures and enhancing capabilities of State / Central Government officials in related fields.

10. Dr. Zhores Alferov, who passed away recently, was the physicist & Nobel Prize laureate of which country?

A. Russia

B. Japan

C. United States

D. France

- ✓ Dr. Zhores Alferov (88), a Russian physicist and Nobel Prize laureate, has passed away on 2nd of March in St Petersburg. In 2000, Alferov received the Nobel Prize in Physics together with US scientists Jack Kilby and Herbert Kroemer, for developing semiconductor heterostructures used in high-speed-and optoelectronics.

- ✓ He was the first Russian to win a Nobel Prize since Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev won the peace prize in 1990. He was also elected a corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences in 1972, and a full member in 1979

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1. Who has been officially named as the world's oldest living person by Guinness World Records?

A. Kane Tanaka

B. Nabi Tajima

C. Violet Brown

D. Chiyo Miyako

- ✓ A 116-year-old Japanese woman, Kane Tanaka has been honoured as the world's oldest living person by Guinness World Records.
- ✓ The global authority on records officially recognised Kane Tanaka in a ceremony at the nursing home where she lives in Fukuoka, in southwest Japan.
- ✓ Born in January 1903, Tanaka loves playing the board game 'Othello' and enjoys studying mathematics. The previous oldest living person was another Japanese woman, Chiyo Miyako, who passed away July 2018, aged 117.

2. Who is the head of the committee to formulate insurance cover for advocates?

A. Alok Srivastava

B. Tushar Mehta

C. Snehlata Shrivastava

D. Pramod Kumar Misra

- ✓ The Government of India (GoI) has constituted a 5-member committee to examine the issues related to framing of a proper, structured scheme for providing insurance cover to advocates and suggest modalities for its implementation.
- ✓ The committee, under the chairmanship of Legal Affairs Secretary Alok Srivastava, will recommend a comprehensive insurance scheme for the welfare of advocates all over the country to address concerns relating to untimely death and medical insurance. The committee will submit its reports within 3 months.

3. Who led the Indian delegation at the first-ever India-Japan Space Dialogue in New Delhi?

A. Indra Mani Pandey

B. Desh Deepak Verma

C. Vinod Kumar Yadav

D. K. Vijay Raghavan

- ✓ On 8th March 2019, the first-ever India-Japan Space Dialogue was held in New Delhi that brought together outer space related ministries and agencies in two countries.
- ✓ The dialogue provided an opportunity to exchange information on the space policy of each country and to hold discussions on space security, bilateral cooperation between JAXA-ISRO.
- ✓ The space agencies Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) focused on Surveillance and Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) of the waters in the East China Sea, the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean.
- ✓ The space industries of both the countries also focused on global navigation satellite system, space situational awareness (SSA), space security and space-related norms. The Indian delegation was led by Additional Secretary for Disarmament and International Security Affairs in Ministry of External Affairs, Indra Mani Pandey.
- ✓ The Japanese delegation was co-led by Deputy Assistant Minister in Foreign Policy Bureau of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ambassador Policy Planning and International Security Policy, Kansuke Nagaoka and Director General of National Space Policy Secretariat in Cabinet Office Shuzo Takada.

4. Who has become the first-ever Thari Hindu woman to be elected to the Senate of Pakistan?

A. Taniya Bhatia

B. Krishna Kumari Kohli

C. Ravi Kalpana

D. Ekta Bisht

- ✓ Krishna Kumari Kohli has become the first-ever Thari Hindu woman to be elected to the Senate of Pakistan in March 2018 and chaired the session of

the Upper House of Parliament on the occasion of the International Women's Day (IWD-2019).

- ✓ She is known for her campaigns for women's rights, against bonded labour, and against sexual harassment in the workplace. Her election to Senate represented a major milestone for women and minority rights in Pakistan.
- ✓ Krishna belongs to the Kohli community from the remote village of Dhana Gam in Nagarparkar area of Sindh province where a sizeable number of Hindus live. Hence, Krishna became the first Hindu Dalit woman and the 2nd Hindu woman elected to the Senate after Ratna Bhagwandas Chawla.

5. The Centre of Excellence for European Union Studies in India (CEEUSI) has been inaugurated in which of the following universities?

- A. IGNOU
- B. Jamia Millia Islamia
- C. Dr. Hari Singh Gour University
- D. JNU

- ✓ On March 8, the European Union and the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) inaugurated the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence for European Union Studies in India at the varsity.
- ✓ The Centre of Excellence for European Union Studies in India (CEEUSI) at JNU will provide greater visibility to EU studies in India and South Asia.
- ✓ After Manipal Academy for Higher Education, JNU is one of only two Centers of Excellence awarded EU funds in India. The new Centre of Excellence at JNU will provide additional opportunities to students and researchers to work on EU studies in India.

6. Who has been designated as the new Finance Secretary (FS) of India?

- A. Atanu Chakraborty
- B. Ajay Bhushan Pandey
- C. Subhash Chandra Garg
- D. Rajiv Kumar

- ✓ Subhash Chandra Garg, a 1983 batch IAS officer of Rajasthan cadre, has been designated as the new Finance Secretary (FS) of India.
- ✓ He is also the current Union Economic Affairs Secretary. He succeeded Ajay Narayan Jha. As per the convention, the senior-most among the five secretaries in the Finance Ministry is designated as the Finance Secretary.
- ✓ Here, Ajay Bhushan Pandey is the Revenue Secretary, Rajiv Kumar is Secretary in Department of Financial Services, Atanu Chakraborty is Secretary in Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) and Girish Chandra Murmu is the Expenditure Secretary.
- ✓ Pandey and Kumar are 1984 batch IAS officers of Maharashtra and Jharkhand cadre respectively. Chakraborty and Murmu are 1985 batch IAS officers of Gujarat cadre.

7. The Principal Bench of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) is located in which of the following cities?

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

- ✓ The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has been set up under the Companies Act of 2013. It has provided an effective and time bound adjudication mechanism to deal with matters related to the Companies Act of 2013, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) of 2016 and the LLP Act of 2008.
- ✓ It is in news recently because the Government of India (GoI) has recently approved establishment of two new benches of NCLT, one at Amaravati in Andhra Pradesh and the other at Indore in Madhya Pradesh. This step has been taken keeping in view the increasing case load, especially under the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code 2016.
- ✓ The jurisdiction of the Bench at Amaravati will be the state of Andhra Pradesh and that of Indore will

be the state of Madhya Pradesh. At present Andhra Pradesh comes under the Jurisdiction of NCLT Bench at Hyderabad and Madhya Pradesh comes under the jurisdiction of NCLT Bench, Ahmedabad.

- ✓ It is expected that creation of new benches will enable faster disposal of cases. Presently, 14 numbers of NCLT Benches have been established, including the Principal Bench in New Delhi.

8. Which of the following sports federation has recently recognized as India's national sport federation?

- A. Golf
- B. Carrom**
- C. Equestrian
- D. Futsal

- ✓ Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has granted provisional recognition to All India Carrom Federation (AICF) as National Sport Federation with immediate effect till up to 31st March 2019 or decision of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in the matter, whichever is earlier.
- ✓ It is to facilitate participation of Indian Athletes in the forthcoming National/International competitions. The recognition means granting a major role to AICF for development of the Carrom sport in India.
- ✓ The recognition can be reviewed by the government in case Memorandum of Association (MoA) of the AICF or its practices come into conflict with the government guidelines as amended from time to time. The Carrom sport is placed in the 'Others' category.

9. Which state government has launched the Mukhyamantri Anchal Amrit Yojana?

- A. Jharkhand
- B. Uttarakhand**
- C. West Bengal
- D. Odisha

- ✓ Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat has recently launched the free milk scheme

"Mukhyamantri Anchal Amrit Yojana" for anganwadi children .

- ✓ Under the Amrit Yojana, flavored, sweet, skimmed milk powder will be made available to the 20,000 Anganwadi kendras across the state. Nearly 2.5 lakh children at 20,000 Anganwadi kendras in the state will be given 100 ml milk twice a week for free. This scheme has been launched as part of state government drive to fight against malnutrition in the state. Approx 18,000 children suffer from malnutrition in Uttarakhand.

Winmeen Current Affairs

1. Marayoor Jaggery, which recently got the GI Tag, is associated to which of the following states?

[A] Kerala

[B] Odisha

[C] Karnataka

[D] Tamil Nadu

- ✓ The traditional and handmade 'Marayoor Jaggery' from Idukki district of Kerala has finally got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag that makes it safe for consumption while rejuvenating the traditional way of production and ensuring a safe market in future.
- ✓ It has been a long-term demand of farmers in Marayur and Kanthallur grama panchayats, where jaggery is produced without adding any chemicals. Though the Marayur jaggery has always been known for its high quality, fake jaggery with a salty taste was being marketed as Marayur jaggery.
- ✓ Hence, The GI tag would aid in initiating legal action against fake jaggery being sold as Marayur jaggery. The dark brown Marayur jaggery is handmade at household units in Marayur and Kanthallur.
- ✓ It has high sweetness with less saltiness, high content of iron and less sodium. The produce is free of impurities and the sugar cane fields are free of chemical pesticides and fertilisers.

2. Which Indian personality has been named Chief Scientist at WHO?

[A] Mylswamy Annadurai

[B] Subbiah Arunan

[C] Moumita Dutta

[D] Soumya Swaminathan

- ✓ Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, a Deputy Director General of Programmes (DDP) of the World Health Organisation (WHO), has been named Chief Scientist of the WHO.
- ✓ The newly created division of chief scientist is being seen as the fifth pillar to strengthen the WHO's core scientific work, ensure quality and consistency of norms and standards.

3. Which Indian defence lab has developed 'combat drugs' to reduce casualties in Pulwama type attacks?

[A] INMAS, Delhi

[B] RDE, Dehradun

[C] DTRL, Delhi

[D] DRDL, Hyderabad

- ✓ To reduce casualties in Pulwama type attacks & warfare, the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS) has developed a range of 'combat casualty drugs' that can extend the golden hour till the trooper is shifted to hospital. INMAS is a medical laboratory of DRDO.
- ✓ The spectrum includes bleeding wound sealants, super absorptive dressings, and glycerated salines, all of which can save lives in the event of warfare in a jungle and high altitude areas as well as in terror attacks.
- ✓ According to developers of the drugs, chances of survival and minimum disability are highest when effective first aid care is given within the golden hour.
- ✓ Among the drugs developed is glycerated saline, a battlefield intravenous fluid that does not freeze till -18 degrees Celsius and is useful in handling trauma cases in high altitude areas. Glycerated saline has life saving capacities as it gives more time to the medical personnel to shift the wounded patient to a higher care facility.
- ✓ INMAS has also developed a special medicated dressing material which is 200 times more absorptive than normal dressings during bleeding wounds. They have also developed a chitosan gel which helps in preventing blood loss by forming a film over the wound.

4. Kavinder Singh Bisht is associated with which sports?

[A] Wrestling

[B] Hockey

[C] Football

[D] Boxing

- ✓ Kavinder Singh Bisht has clinched gold in the 56kg-category at the 38th GeeBee Boxing Tournament in Helsinki, Finland.

- ✓ In it, 3-time Asian medallist Shiva Thapa (60kg) and three other Indian pugilists - Govind Sahani, Commonwealth Games bronze-medallist Mohammed Hussamuddin and Dinesh Dagar - claimed silver medals to end a fine campaign in the tournament.
- ✓ Besides, Sumit Sangwan (91kg), former youth world champion Sachin Siwach (52kg) and Naveen Kumar (+91kg) got bronze in their categories.

5. Who has been named the new Prime Minister of Palestine?

- [A] Rami Hamdallah
- [B] Salam Fayyad
- [C] Mahmoud Abbas
- [D] Mohammad Shtayyeh**

- ✓ Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has officially named Dr. Mohammad Shtayyeh as the new Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority.
- ✓ The announcement comes six weeks after Rami al-Hamdallah tendered his resignation from the post and of his unity government to President Mahmoud Abbas, underscoring the failure of Hamas and Fatah to implement a power-sharing deal.
- ✓ Shtayyeh is a member of the West Bank's dominant Fatah party.

6. The students of which IIT have devised solution to detect fake notes at Smart India Hackathon 2019?

- [A] IIT Bombay
- [B] IIT Kanpur
- [C] IIT Kharagpur**
- [D] IIT Indore

- ✓ The students from IIT Kharagpur have devised unique solutions ranging from detecting counterfeit currency to nuclear radiation tracking through wearable sensors at the recently concluded nationwide competition, Smart India Hackathon 2019.
- ✓ They developed a code for a smartphone application to address the problem of detecting fake Indian currency. For this, the 6-member team have developed an image processing application which can detect counterfeit currency.

- ✓ The application, which can be installed on smartphones, can be used by people at various touch points thus reducing chances of fraud.
- ✓ A user can upload a currency note image and the mobile app would verify its authenticity using 25 features extracted from the front and rear side of the currency note.
- ✓ In case of detection of a fake note, the user will also be notified of the failure checkpoints. The six students who developed the code are T.Y.S.S. Santosh, Satish Kumar Reddy, Vipul Tomar, Sai Krishna, Drishti Tulsi and D V Sai Surya.

7. India bagged first prize in which category at the international Golden City Gate Tourism Awards 2019?

- [A] Eco Tourism
- [B] TV Cinema Spot**
- [C] TV Travel
- [D] Magazine Innovation

- ✓ The Union Ministry of Tourism has won the First Prize in the category of TV Cinema Spot at the prestigious international Golden City Gate Tourism Awards 2019.
- ✓ The awards were given for the following promotional films and TV commercials produced under the Incredible India 2.0 Campaign: Yogi of the Racetrack, The Reincarnation of Mr. and Mrs. Jones, Sanctuary in Paris, Maharani of Manhattan and The Masala Master Chef.
- ✓ The Golden City Gate Tourism Multi-media Awards are given annually in various categories related to the Tourism and Hospitality sectors.
- ✓ The 'Golden City Gate' is a creative multi-media international competition for countries, cities, regions and hotels. The annual award ceremony takes place at ITB Berlin, the world's leading tourism trade show.
- ✓ The Ministry of Tourism has launched the Incredible India 2.0 Campaign in September 2017. The 2.0 Campaign marks a shift from generic promotions across the world to market specific promotional plans and content creation.

8. Who is the recipient of the 2019 Pritzker Architecture Prize?

[A] Peter Zumthor

[B] Arata Isozaki

[C] B V Doshi

[D] Shigeru Ban

- ✓ Japanese architect Arata Isozaki has been named 2019 laureate of the Pritzker Prize, architecture's most prestigious award.
- ✓ He is the 46th recipient of the Pritzker Prize, and the 8th Japanese architect to receive the honour.
- ✓ The prize will be presented at a ceremony at the Palace of Versailles in May 2019, with a public lecture in Paris. Isozaki is credited with bringing together the East and West in his innovative designs.
- ✓ He is regarded as Japan's most influential postwar architect and is known for his visionary ideas including an inflatable concert hall. His first international commission was the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, which he worked on from 1981 through 1986.
- ✓ Isozaki said that he was inspired by the red sandstone buildings of India. Among Isozaki's works are the Palau Sant Jordi in Barcelona for the 1992 Olympics, the Shenzhen Cultural Center in China and the Allianz Tower in Milan.
- ✓ His buildings are also found all over Japan, including museums and community centers in Kyushu, Osaka and Tokyo.

9. Large Hadron Collider (LHC), which sometimes seen in news, is associated to which of the following organizations?

[A] CERN

[B] ISRO

[C] NASA

[D] JAXA

- ✓ The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) is the world's largest and most powerful particle collider and the largest machine in the world.
- ✓ It is in news because The European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN) has approved the experiment designed to look for light and weakly interacting particles at the LHC. It is planning a new experiment to look for particles associated with the mysterious dark matter which makes up about 27% of the universe.

- ✓ This novel experiment will help diversify the physics programme of colliders such as the LHC, and will allow the researchers to address unanswered questions in particle physics from a different perspective.
- ✓ FASER (or the Forward Search Experiment) will complement CERN's ongoing physics programme & extend its discovery potential to several new particles. The FASER detector's total length is under 5m and its core cylindrical structure has a radius of 10cm. It will be installed in a side tunnel along an unused transfer line which links the LHC to its injector, the Super Proton Synchrotron (SPS).
- ✓ A collaboration of 16 institutes is building the detector and will carry out the experiments which will start taking data from LHC between 2021 and 2023. LHC is a giant lab in a 27-kilometre tunnel straddling the French-Swiss border. India is an associate member in the LHC project.

10. Who is the author of the book "Tiger Woman"?

[A] Sirsho Bandopadhyay

[B] Joy Goswami

[C] Shahabuddin Nagari

[D] Alokaranjan Dasgupta

- ✓ The book titled "Tiger Woman" has been authored by Bengali novelist Sirsho Bandopadhyay. It is translated by Arunava Sinha from the Bengali version "Shardulsundori" is set in the Calcutta of the 1880s.
- ✓ It's a historical novel that places a tragic love triangle in an era of patriotism and the Great Bengal Circus became a metaphor for a frustrated social revolution.

Winmeen Current Affairs

1. Which country is organizing the 34th edition of Aahar 2019 - the International Food and Hospitality Fair?

[A] Nepal

[B] Japan

[C] India

[D] South Korea

- ✓ The 34th edition of Aahar 2019 - the International Food and Hospitality Fair has started in New Delhi on March 12.
- ✓ The 5-day fair, organized by India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), features wide range of food products, machinery, food and beverages equipment, hospitality and decor solutions, confectionery items from over 560 participants from India and foreign countries.
- ✓ The foreign participants in the fair are from countries including China, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Indonesia, Japan, Russia, Spain, USA and UK among others.

2. Vinod Kashyap, who passed away recently, was the veteran personality of which field?

[A] Science

[B] Journalism

[C] Sports

[D] Law

- ✓ Vinod Kashyap (88), the veteran Hindi Newsreader, has passed in New Delhi on March 10, 2019. She served All India Radio (AIR) for about 30 years.
- ✓ She started her career in Radio as a drama artist.

3. Which country is hosting the 2019 SAFF Women's Championship?

[A] Nepal

[B] Bangladesh

[C] India

[D] Sri Lanka

- ✓ The 5th edition of the SAFF Women's Championship 2019 has started in Biratnagar, Nepal on March 12.
- ✓ Defending champion India has been drawn in Group B in the six-team competition alongside Maldives

and Sri Lanka, while host Nepal has been kept in Group A with Bangladesh and Bhutan.

- ✓ The opening match was played between Nepal and Bhutan. Unbeaten in 19 matches from the last four editions, India will take on Maldives on March 13.
- ✓ Indian coach Maymol Rocky has expressed confidence in her side. The tournament will be last opportunity for Indian coach Maymol Rocky to fine tune her team for the crucial 2020 Olympic Qualifiers Round 2, which is scheduled to be held in Myanmar from April 1-9.

4. Which state government has recently approved 27% quota for OBCs?

[A] Jharkhand

[B] Uttar Pradesh

[C] Rajasthan

[D] Madhya Pradesh

- ✓ The Madhya Pradesh government has taken the ordinance route to increase reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) from 14% to 27%. In this regard, Governor Anandiben Patel has recently signed the ordinance to amend the Madhya Pradesh Lok Seva (Anusuchit Jatiyon, Anusuchit Jan Jatiyon aur Anya Pichhade Vargon ke Liye Arakshan) Adhiniyam, 1994.
- ✓ With this, MP is possibly the only state in India to have 27% quota for OBCs. At present, the state provides 20% reservation to Scheduled Tribes (STs), 16% to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and 14% to OBCs.
- ✓ OBCs are estimate to constitute nearly 52% of the state's population, and OBC groups have often demanded an increase in reservation to reflect their strength in the state. As per analysts, the move has been taken to woo OBC voters before the Lok Sabha elections 2019.

5. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) works under which of the following union ministries?

[A] Ministry of Defence

[B] Ministry of Railways

[C] Ministry of Law and Justice

[D] Ministry of Home Affairs

- ✓ The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) is the government agency for authentic source of data on

crime, accidents, suicides, and prisons for policy matters and research data as defined by the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Special and Local Laws (SLL).

- ✓ Founded in 1986, Bureau is also apex nodal agency for all Finger Print related matters including accreditation of Finger Print Experts in the country.
- ✓ It is headquartered in New Delhi and is part of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). The current Director of NCRB is Ramphal Pawar (IPS). Recently, NCRB has celebrated its 34th Inception Day on March 11.

6. Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO), sometimes seen in news, is a robotic spacecraft of which of the following space agencies?

[A] NASA

[B] ISRO

[C] JAXA

[D] Roscosmos

- ✓ The Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) is a NASA robotic spacecraft currently orbiting the Moon in an eccentric polar mapping orbit.
- ✓ It is in news because by using NASA's LRO, scientists at the Planetary Science Institute have observed water molecules moving around the dayside of the Moon.
- ✓ According to the study published in the journal Geophysical Research Letters, measurements from the Lyman Alpha Mapping Project (LAMP) instrument aboard the LRO of the sparse layer of molecules temporarily stuck to the surface helped characterise lunar hydration changes over the course of a day.
- ✓ These results aid in understanding the lunar water cycle and will ultimately help scientists to learn about accessibility of water that can be used by humans in future missions to the Moon.
- ✓ Lunar water can potentially be used by humans to make fuel or to use for radiation shielding or thermal management; if these materials do not need to be launched from Earth, that makes these future missions more affordable.

7. The researchers of which institute have developed optical imaging system 'DOLPHIN' for finding tiny tumours?

[A] Massachusetts Institute of Technology

[B] Harvard University

[C] University of Oxford

[D] Stanford University

- ✓ In USA, the researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have developed an imaging system which could be deployed to find tiny tumours, as small as a couple of hundred cells, deep within the body.
- ✓ They used their imaging system, named "DOLPHIN," which relies on near-infrared light, to track a 0.1-millimetre fluorescent probe through the digestive tract of a living mouse.
- ✓ They also showed that they can detect a signal to a tissue depth of eight centimeters, far deeper than any existing biomedical optical imaging technique.
- ✓ The researchers hope to adapt their imaging technology for early diagnosis of ovarian and other cancers that are currently difficult to detect until late stages.
- ✓ According to the study published in the journal Scientific Reports, existing methods for imaging tumours all have limitations that prevent them from being useful for early cancer diagnosis.

8. Who has been appointed as chairman of the 'Ma Narmada, Ma Kshipra evam Ma Mandakini River Trust' in Madhya Pradesh?

[A] Aditya Joshi

[B] Madhusudan Patidar

[C] Varsha Varman

[D] Namdev Tyagi

- ✓ The Congress government in Madhya Pradesh has appointed self-styled godman Namdev Tyagi to the post of the chairperson of the 'Ma Narmada, Ma Kshipra evam Ma Mandakini River Trust'.
- ✓ He is popularly known as "Computer Baba". Notably, Tyagi was accorded minister of state (MoS) status by the previous BJP-led government in April 2018.
- ✓ However, he resigned in October 2018, claiming that the government was anti-religion and not fulfilling

the promise of stopping illegal sand mining in the river Narmada.

9. What is the theme of the World Kidney Day (WKD-2019)?

[A] Kidney Disease and Obesity

[B] **Kidney Health for Everyone Everywhere**

[C] Kidneys for Life – Stop Kidney Attack

[D] Kidney Disease & Children: Act Early to Prevent It

- ✓ The World Kidney Day (WKD) is observed every year on 2nd Thursday of March as a global health awareness campaign to raise awareness about impact of kidney disease and its associated health problems worldwide.
- ✓ In 2019, the WKD is been observed on March 14 with theme “Kidney Health for Everyone Everywhere”.
- ✓ The 2019 WKD theme calls for Universal Health Coverage (UHC) for prevention and early treatment of kidney diseases.

10. Pinaka guided weapon rocket system, which is in news recently, is developed by which of the following organizations?

[A] DIA

[B] **DRDO**

[C] BARC

[D] VSSC

- ✓ On March 11, the indigenously developed Pinaka guided weapon rocket system successfully test fired at Pokhran desert in Rajasthan to boost artillery capability of the Indian Army.
- ✓ The short range guided Pinaka weapon system is equipped with a state-of-the-art guidance kit comprising an advanced navigation and control system.
- ✓ The weapon system, which is developed by DRDO, impacted the intended targets with high precision and achieved desired accuracies in all the missions.
- ✓ The unique feature of the Pinaka versions tested is the integrated avionics system; it consists of an on-board mission computer, miniaturised navigation system and telemetry.
- ✓ The existing Pinaka systems held in the inventory of the Indian defence runs into thousands of numbers. The new guidance system will benefit them.

Winmeen Current Affairs

1. Which Indian sportsperson has been selected as Barbie role model?

[A] Saina Nehwal

[B] Dipa Karmakar

[C] Mithali Raj

[D] Mary Kom

- ✓ In celebration of International Women's Day (IWD-2019) and its 60th anniversary, American toymaker Mattel has released a new range of barbies to honor 20 female role models across 18 countries speaking 14 different languages.
- ✓ Indian gymnast Dipa Karmakar has been selected as a Barbie Role Model to help inspire the next generation of girls.
- ✓ She is the first Indian woman to win a Commonwealth Games gymnastics medal. Others honoured in the latest dolls include Australian Open champion Naomi Osaka of Japan, German double Olympic gold medallist cyclist Kristina Vogel, Brazilian surfer Maya Gabeira, Mexican mountaineer, writer and lecturer Karla Wheelock and British activist & supermodel Adwoa Aboah.
- ✓ Mattel has been slowly trying to bring more diversity into their line to present the true representation of real-life women instead of one single standard.

2. Which country has become the largest arms importer in 2014–18, as per SIPRI's latest report 'Trends in International Arms Transfers-2018'?

[A] Saudi Arabia

[B] India

[C] Australia

[D] Pakistan

- ✓ According to the premier Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)'s latest report, a total of 155 countries imported major arms in 2014–18.
- ✓ Saudi Arabia was the world's largest arms importer from 2014-18, which accounted for 12% of the total imports during the period.

- ✓ While, India at 2nd spot accounted for 9.5% of the global total. The top five arms importers — Saudi Arabia, India, Egypt, Australia and Algeria— accounted for 35% of total arms imports in 2014–18.
- ✓ The report noted that despite the long-standing conflict between India and Pakistan, arms imports decreased for both countries in 2014-18 compared with 2009-13.
- ✓ Pakistan stood at the 11th position, accounting for 2.7% of all global imports. In its report on 'Trends in International Arms Transfers 2018', the institute also identified the United States, Russia, France, Germany and China as the five top arms exporting nations in 2014–18 - accounted for 75% of all arms exports.

3. Which space observatory has been used by Indian astronomers to identify a new group of stars in the globular cluster NGC 2808?

[A] Euclid

[B] Astro Sat

[C] IXPE

[D] Athena

- ✓ By using Indian multi-wavelength space observatory AstroSat, the astronomers from Thiruvananthapuram and Mumbai have identified a new population of ultraviolet stars in the globular cluster NGC 2808.
- ✓ Globular clusters are collections of thousands to millions of stars, moving as one unit. These stars are tightly held together by gravity of the cluster itself, and are believed to have formed together at roughly the same time.
- ✓ The NGC 2808 is one of the most massive globular clusters that we know of, and is located at a distance of 47,000 light years from us. This cluster was observed by the team of researchers using the UltraViolet Imaging Telescope (UVIT) on-board AstroSat.
- ✓ So far, AstroSat has taken images of over 2,000 individual stars in NGC 2808 through various ultraviolet filters. AstroSat is the India's first dedicated multi wavelength space observatory. It was launched in September 2015.

- ✓ It orbits in low earth equatorial orbit at altitude of 650 km and has mission life of 5 years. It observes universe in the optical, Ultraviolet (UV), low and high energy X-ray regions of the electromagnetic spectrum.

4. Which Indian economist is the recipient of the Yashwantrao Chavan National Award 2018?

- [A] D. Subbarao
- [B] Shaktikanta Das
- [C] Raghuram Rajan
- [D] Urjit Patel

- ✓ Former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan has been honoured with the 'Yashwantrao Chavan National Award 2018' for his contribution to economic development.
- ✓ He was presented the award at a function on 12th March 2016 on the occasion of the 106th birth anniversary of Yashwantrao Chavan, who was the first chief minister of Maharashtra.
- ✓ The award is given every year by the Yashwantrao Chavan Prathisthan to individuals and institutions in recognition of their outstanding contribution to national integration, and social and economic development, among others.

5. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has launched new Global Influenza Strategy for which of the following periods?

- [A] 2019-2030
- [B] 2020-2025
- [C] 2022-2035
- [D] 2019-2025

- ✓ The World Health Organisation (WHO) has recently launched new Global Influenza Strategy for 2019-2030 aimed at protecting people in all countries from the threat of influenza.
- ✓ The strategy will provide a framework for WHO alongside countries and other partners to work to prevent seasonal influenza, control the spread of the infection from animals to humans and prepare for the next pandemic.
- ✓ A global influenza pandemic was listed as one of the WHO's top ten threats to global health in 2019.

Influenza is one of the world's greatest public health challenges.

- ✓ Every year across the globe, there are an estimated 1 billion cases, of which 3 to 5 million are severe cases, resulting in 290 000 to 650 000 influenza-related respiratory deaths. WHO recommends annual influenza vaccination as the most effective way to prevent influenza.

6. India's first LGBTQ clinic and HIV treatment centre has inaugurated in which of the following cities?

- [A] New Delhi
- [B] Mumbai
- [C] Hyderabad
- [D] Chennai

- ✓ India's first integrated community-based HIV treatment centre and clinic for LGBTQ has recently inaugurated at Humsafar Trust's office in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ✓ The centre is supported by the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) and Family Health International 360.
- ✓ The centre will give free counselling and provide Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART). ART is the use of HIV medicines to treat the infection, and is recommended for everyone who is infected with virus and delays the progression of the disease.
- ✓ The centre will not only facilitate access to treatment among the most-at-risk communities, including transgenders and sex workers, but also provide the free HIV medications distributed by NACO.
- ✓ The acronym 'LGBTQ' stands for - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer.

7. Who is the recipient of Kusumagraj literature award?

- [A] Ved Rahi
- [B] Jeet Thayil
- [C] Dilip Chitre
- [D] K. Srilata

- ✓ Jammu-born film director and novelist Ved Rahi has been selected for prestigious 'Kusumagraj' national award for literature.
- ✓ The award is instituted by the city-based Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University

(YCMOU) and carries a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh, a memento and a citation.

- ✓ It is named after Jnanpith-laureate Marathi poet and playwright late VV Shirwadkar, popularly known as 'Kusumagraj'.
- ✓ Born in Jammu in 1933, Rahi has penned seven novels in Dogri. He was given the Sahitya Akademi award for his Dogri novel, 'Aale' in 1983.
- ✓ Rahi also made the film 'Veer Savarkar' (2001), a biopic on the life of revolutionary Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. He was director of the 1991 Doordarshan television serial, 'Gul Gulshan Gulfaam'.
- ✓ Rahi has written dialogues for several Bollywood movies, including 'Bezuban', 'Charas' and 'Mom ki Gudiya'.

8. What is the India's position in gold holding, as per the latest report by the World Gold Council (WGC)?

- [A] 15th
- [B] 19th
- [C] 10th
- [D] 11th

- ✓ As per the latest report by the World Gold Council (WGC), India has the 11th largest gold reserve with the current holding pegged at 607 tonnes.
- ✓ However, India is the world's largest consumer of gold. The top slot is occupied by the U.S., which boasts of gold reserves of 8,133.5 tonnes, followed by Germany with 3,369.7 tonnes.
- ✓ Italy and France complete the top five lists with reserves of a little over 2,400 tonnes each. India's overall position in terms of total gold holding would have been tenth had the list included only countries.
- ✓ Whereas, International Monetary Fund (IMF) is included and is third on the list with total gold reserves of 2,814 tonnes.
- ✓ Pakistan, with its gold reserves of 64.6 tonnes, occupies the 45th position. The WGC is market development organization for the gold industry. It is headquartered in London, United Kingdom (UK).

9. Nice Agreement, sometimes seen in news, is related to which of the following fields?

- [A] Child Education
- [B] Sports

[C] Space Exploraion

[D] Intellectual Property

- ✓ The Union Cabinet has recently approved the proposal for accession of India to (i) The Nice Agreement concerning the International classification of Goods and Services for the purposes of registration of marks, (ii) The Vienna Agreement establishing an International Classification of the figurative elements of marks, and (iii) The Locarno Agreement establishing an International classification for industrial designs.
- ✓ The accession to the Nice, Vienna and Locarno Agreements will help the Intellectual Property (IP) office in India to harmonise the classification systems for examination of trademark and design applications, in line with the classification systems followed globally.
- ✓ It would give an opportunity to include Indian designs, figurative elements and goods in the international classification systems. The accession is expected to instill confidence in foreign investors in relation to protection of IPs in India.
- ✓ The accession would also facilitate in exercising rights in decision making processes regarding review and revision of the classifications under the agreement.

10. The 14th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership is being organized by which of the following union ministries?

- [A] Ministry of External Affairs
- [B] Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- [C] Ministry of Finance
- [D] Ministry of Commerce & Industry

- ✓ The 14th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnerships will be held in New Delhi from March 17-19, 2019.
- ✓ It is being organized by Ministry of Commerce & Industry in association with Confederation of Indian Industry and EXIM Bank of India.
- ✓ The event will mark the deepening of India-Africa economic and business ties and pave the way for a whole range of cross-border project partnerships.
- ✓ The Conclave will mark the pre-eminence of India-Africa partnership in the area of 'South-South

Cooperation', at a time when the global economy is faced with intractable challenges that stem from rising protectionism and trade conflicts.

- ✓ It is expected to see the participation of 400 plus delegates from Africa and around 300 delegates from India. The B2B meetings at this Conclave are expected to be held on more than 500 project proposals from Africa.

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