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Winmeen Current Affairs

1. Who has been appointed as the first transgender election ambassador in India?

[A] Laxmi Narayan Tripathi

[B] K Prithika Yashini

[C] Madhu Bai Kinnar

[D] Gauri Sawant

- ✓ The Election Commission of India (ECI) has appointed transgender social activist Gauri Sawant, as one of the 12 election ambassadors from Maharashtra. It's the first time that a transgender has been appointed as an election ambassador in India.
- ✓ According to the Election Commission, Gauri Sawant's appointment would help in more people from this category getting registered during the final phase of voters enrollment. It stated that in the next few days, Gauri Sawant would visit every transgender and inspire them about the need for voting.
- ✓ During 2004 and 2009 Lok Sabha elections there was no record of transgender voters. Following the Supreme Court order, transgenders got the right to vote for the first time in 2014. In 2014, 918 voters were registered in this third category. This number has doubled in five years and now it is 2,086.
- ✓ There are 113, 184, and 123 registered transgenders in constituencies of Bhiwandi, Kalyan, and East Mumbai respectively. North Mumbai constituency has registered the maximum number of 324 transgender.

2. Who is the recipient of the 2019 Abel Prize for mathematics?

[A] John Nash

[B] Karen Uhlenbeck

[C] Robert Langlands

[D] Jacques Tits

- ✓ Prof. Karen Uhlenbeck of the University of Texas at Austin has become first woman to win the Abel Prize, one of the world's most prestigious international mathematics awards.
- ✓ The award is sometimes called the Nobel Prize of mathematics.

- ✓ She has been awarded the 6 million Norwegian kroner (\$700,000) prize for her work in the fields of geometric partial differential equations, gauge theory and integrable systems and for the fundamental impact of her work on analysis, geometry and mathematical physics.
- ✓ The prize was first awarded in 2003 to honor the 19th-century Norwegian mathematician Niels Henrik Abel.

3. Which country has topped the 2018 report on patents filed by members of the WIPO's Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)?

[A] China

[B] United States

[C] Japan

[D] India

- ✓ The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has recently released the 2018 report on patents filed by members of its Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT).
- ✓ The United Nations (UN) data shows the United States remained the leading individual country for patent applications in 2018.
- ✓ But on a regional basis, Asia's surge continued. It's a sign of innovation shifting from west to east because more than half of all international patent applications filed last year came from Asia.
- ✓ In the main category-the PCT, the US led the way with 56,142 applications, followed by China (53,345) and Japan (49,702).
- ✓ Germany and South Korea came in a distant fourth and fifth, with fewer than 20,000 applications each. India registered the largest innovation jump of any country last year. Patent applications jumped more than 27% - from 1,583 in 2017 up to 2,013.
- ✓ Chinese telecommunications behemoth Huawei also set new record for the number of patent applications filed a single corporation in one year with 5,405. Patent filings are seen as a measure of the spread of science and technology in a country.
- ✓ Patent protection also provides monopoly rights to the inventor.

4. What is the theme of the 2019 World Sparrow Day (WSD)?

- [A] Save Sparrows
- [B] Protect House Sparrows
- [C] I Love Sparrows
- [D] Sparrows: Heroes of the Environment

- ✓ The World Sparrow Day (WSD) is observed every year on 20th of March to protect these little birds and conserve their houses.
- ✓ The house sparrow is on the verge of extinction. The 2019 theme "I Love Sparrows" is inspired by hope that more and more will celebrate the relationship between People and Sparrows.
- ✓ The initiative was started by Nature Forever Society (NFS) of India, founded by Mohammed Dilawar, an Indian conservationist. He started his work helping the house sparrow in Nashik. He was also named one of the "Heroes of the Environment" for 2008 by Time for his efforts.
- ✓ The idea of marking WSD came up during an informal discussion at the NFS's office. The idea was to earmark a day for the house sparrow to convey the message of conservation of the house sparrow and other common birds and also mark a day of celebration to appreciate the beauty of the common biodiversity which is taken so much for granted.
- ✓ The first WSD was celebrated in 2010 in different parts of the world. To encourage efforts made towards this cause and to selflessly conserve the environment, NFS has instituted the first Sparrow Awards in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, on 20 March 2011.

5. Which country has recently decided to join China's ambitious Belt and Road initiative?

- [A] United States
- [B] India
- [C] France
- [D] Italy

- ✓ Recently, Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte has pledged to make Italy the first Group of Seven nation to join China's ambitious Belt and Road initiative, despite objections from the United States and concerns within his governing coalition.

- ✓ While, on 20th March 2019, India signalled that it will boycott China's second Belt and Road Forum (BRF) for a second time.
- ✓ It stated that no country can participate in an initiative that ignores its core concerns on sovereignty and territorial integrity. India boycotted the first BRF in 2017 after protesting to Beijing over the controversial China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which is being laid through the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) overriding New Delhi's sovereignty concerns.
- ✓ China has already deepened its commitment to expand the USD 60 billion CPEC, which aims to connect China's Xinjiang province with Pakistan's Gwadar port with a host of road, rail, gas and oil pipelines.

6. What is the theme of the International Day of Happiness (IDH-2019)?

- [A] Share Happiness
- [B] Happier Together
- [C] Live Happier
- [D] Angry Birds Happy Planet

- ✓ The International Day of Happiness (IDH) is observed every year on 20th of March to recognise the importance of happiness in the lives of people around the world. The day is a good reminder that our world is changing.
- ✓ If we want to understand how we progress, why we sometimes fail & ultimately improve the quality of all our lives, then the pursuit of happiness may offer an answer.
- ✓ The 2019 theme "Happier Together" focuses on what we have in common, rather than what divides us. It is celebrated by all 193 UN Member States.

7. Mitra shakti-VI is the joint military exercise between India and which of the following countries?

- [A] Sri Lanka
- [B] Bhutan
- [C] Nepal
- [D] Bangladesh

- ✓ Exercise MITRA SHAKTI is conducted annually as part of military diplomacy and interaction between armies of India & Sri Lanka.

- ✓ The joint exercise for the year 2018-19 will be conducted from 26 March to 08 April 2019 in Sri Lanka. Troops from 1st Battalion the BIHAR Regiment of the Indian Army and Gemunu Watch Battalion of Sri Lankan Army would be jointly undertaking the exercise.
- ✓ The aim of the exercise is to build and promote close relations between armies of both the countries and to enhance ability of joint exercise commander to take military contingents of both nations under command.
- ✓ The exercise will involve tactical level operations in an international Counter Insurgency and Counter Terrorist environment under United Nations mandate.

8. Nursultan Nazarbayev, who is in news recently, is from which of the following countries?

- [A] Afghanistan
- [B] Kyrgyzstan
- [C] **Kazakhstan**
- [D] Tazikistan

- ✓ Nursultan Nazarbayev, the longest-serving post-Soviet leader, has unexpectedly resigned as president of Kazakhstan after 29 years in power in a surprise public address on national television.
- ✓ But, he would remain the chairman of the country's powerful security council, the leader of the Nur Otan party, which dominates parliament, and his official title as "The Leader of the Nation". The move comes on the back of growing social discontent and an economy still recovering from an oil price plunge in 2014.
- ✓ Western sanctions against Russia, a key trading partner, have also hit the economy. Known as "Papa" to many Kazakhs, Nazarbayev has ruled the vast oil and gas-rich Central Asian nation since 1989, when it was still part of the Soviet Union. He has been Kazakhstan's President since 1990 and was formally elected in 1991 after the fall of the Soviet Union.
- ✓ Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, speaker of the upper house of parliament, will take over as Kazakhstan's acting president for the remainder of his term in line with the constitution.

9. Which of the following companies has launched Smart steel Garbage Bins?

- [A] Essar Steel
- [B] Tata Steel
- [C] **SAIL**
- [D] RINL

- ✓ The Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) has launched smart garbage bins made of stainless steel. These smart garbage bins will be able to send a signal to the garbage collection vehicle about the 'fill-up' position of the bin, aiding better cleaning and lower human intervention.
- ✓ The environment-friendly garbage bins will be made of SAIL SALEM stainless steel. These will be installed in underground Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) pits at the Smart Garbage Station. This will help prevent the spread of stink and diseases.
- ✓ There will be separate bins for recyclable and non-recyclable wastes. The pits in which the bins will be placed, will be covered with a pit cover fabricated out of stainless steel slip-free sheets. Suitable openings on the pit cover will allow the sanitation crew to dump the collected garbage into the stainless steel bins placed underground.
- ✓ SAIL will supply stainless steel garbage bins to Smart Garbage Stations at Bhikaji Cama Place in Delhi, which is being developed by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC).

10. Who is the recipient of the 2019 Templeton Prize?

- [A] K Sivan
- [B] **Marcelo Gleiser**
- [C] G. Satheesh Reddy
- [D] John Templeton

- ✓ Brazilian physicist and astronomer Marcelo Gleiser (60) has been awarded the prestigious \$1.4 million Templeton Prize for year 2019 for his work on blending science and spirituality. He is the first Latin American to win the prestigious prize.
- ✓ Gleiser is theoretical physicist and views that science and religion are not enemies. He has also explored in depth how science and religion both try

to respond to questions on the origins of life and the universe.

- ✓ The Templeton Prize honors a living person who has made an exceptional contribution to affirming life's spiritual dimension, whether through insight, discovery, or practical works.

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1. What is the theme of the 2019 International Day of Forests?

[A] Forests and Energy

[B] Forests and Education

[C] Forests and Sustainable Cities

[D] Forests and Life

- ✓ The International Day of Forests is observed every year on 21st of March to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests.
- ✓ It also seeks to highlight vital role played by forests in poverty eradication, environmental sustainability and food security. The 2019 theme is "Forests and Education".
- ✓ This year, the International Day of Forests promotes education to Learn to Love Forests. It underscores the importance of education at all levels in achieving sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation.
- ✓ Healthy forests mean healthy, resilient communities and prosperous economies.

2. Who is the recipient of the 2018 Vyas Samman?

[A] Leeladhar Jagudi

[B] Surendra Verma

[C] Mamta Kalia

[D] Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari

- ✓ Hindi writer Leeladhar Jagudi will be honoured with the Vyas Samman 2018 by the KK Birla Foundation for his collection of poems "Jitne Log Utne Prem".
- ✓ The book, published in 2013 was selected by a Chayan Samiti presided over by litterateur Dr. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari.
- ✓ Born in Dhangal village in Tehri Garhwal of Uttarakhand, Mr. Jagudi was awarded the Padma Shri in 2004 apart from other awards, including the Sahitya Akademi Award, Akashvani National Award, Uttar Pradesh Hindi Institute and Uttarakhand Gaurav Samman.
- ✓ The Vyas Samman, started in 1991 is given to an outstanding literary work in Hindi authored by an Indian citizen which has been published in the last decade. The award carries an amount of Rs. 4 lakh.

3. Which country's team has clinched the 2019 SAFF Women's Championship?

[A] Myanmar

[B] Bhutan

[C] India

[D] Nepal

- ✓ In football, India has clinched the SAFF Women's Championship for the fifth time in a row. In the final, they defeated hosts Nepal 3-1 at Biratnagar on 22nd March 2019.
- ✓ In the first half, Dalmia Chhibber of India scored the first goal of the match which was equalled by Nepal's Sabitra Bhandari at the 33rd minute. In the second half, Grace Dengmei scored the second goal at 63rd minute and Anju Tamang scored third and decisive goal in the 76th minute.
- ✓ This was India's 23rd straight victory in the championship since its inception in 2010. India has clinched all five editions of SAFF championship.

4. Jimmy Carter, who is in news recently, is from which country?

[A] Russia

[B] France

[C] Germany

[D] United States

- ✓ Jimmy Carter — the 39th president of the United States — has reached a new milestone and become the longest-living President in U.S. history at the age of 94 years and 172 days.
- ✓ It exceeds by one day the lifespan of former President George H.W. Bush, who died in November 2018 at the age of 94 years and 171 days.
- ✓ Both men were born in 1924: Bush on June 12, Carter on Oct. 1. Carter has remained active in public life during his post-presidency, and in 2002 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in co-founding the Carter Center.

5. The researchers of which country have find cost-effective method for hydrogen fuel production?

[A] India

[B] United States

[C] Russia

[D] France

- ✓ Researchers from the University of Arkansas and Argonne National Lab in the US have identified more cost-effective and efficient ways of producing hydrogen fuel by splitting water.
- ✓ They showed that nano-particles composed of nickel and iron are better alternatives than more costly materials when used as catalysts in the production of hydrogen fuel through water electrolysis.
- ✓ The team demonstrated that using nanocatalysts composed of nickel and iron increases the efficiency of water electrolysis, the process of breaking water atoms apart to produce hydrogen and oxygen and combining them with electrons to create hydrogen gas.
- ✓ When nanoparticles composed of an iron and nickel shell around a nickel core are applied to the process, they interact with the hydrogen and oxygen atoms to weaken the bonds, increasing the efficiency of the reaction by allowing the generation of oxygen more easily.
- ✓ This marks a step toward making water electrolysis a more practical and affordable method for producing hydrogen fuel. Current methods of water electrolysis are too energy-intensive to be effective.

6. The researchers at which university in US have developed a new method to purify water used in oil refinement?

- [A] Stanford University
- [B] Clemson University
- [C] University of Arkansas
- [D] **Purdue University**

- ✓ Researchers at Purdue University in the US, including one of Indian origin, have developed a new process to remove nearly all traces of oil in produced water -- a byproduct from the oil refinery and extraction process.
- ✓ The process uses activated charcoal foam and subjects it to solar light to produce heat and purify the water. The foam absorbs the oil contaminants from the water.
- ✓ Ashreet Mishra, a graduate research assistant at the Purdue University, said that this is a simple, clean and inexpensive treatment process. The process

meets all environmental standards for clean water from industrial sources and had a total organic carbon of 7.5 milligrams per litre. Another advantage is that the oil absorbed by the foam can be recovered efficiently.

- ✓ The researchers were able to recover up to 95% of the oil that was absorbed. The process could be integrated with existing disposal systems to purify a large amount of water and reduce the current stress on water grids.

7. Which union ministry has released national guidelines on responsible business conduct?

- [A] Ministry of Finance
- [B] Ministry of Textiles
- [C] **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**
- [D] Ministry of Commerce and Industry

- ✓ Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has recently released the National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct (NGRBC).
- ✓ These guidelines urge businesses to actualize the principles in letter and spirit. For this purpose, the National Voluntary Guidelines on Social, Environmental and Economic Responsibilities of Business, 2011 (NVGS) have also been revised.
- ✓ According to the guidelines, businesses should conduct and govern themselves with integrity in a manner that is ethical, transparent and accountable.
- ✓ Businesses should provide goods and services in a manner that is sustainable and safe. It should also respect and promote the well-being of all employees, including those in their value chains.

8. Who has been appointed the next Chief of Naval Staff (India)?

- [A] R. Hari Kumar
- [B] M S Pawar
- [C] G Ashok Kumar
- [D] **Karambir Singh**

Vice Admiral Karambir Singh has been appointed the next Chief of Naval Staff (CNS). Singh will succeed Admiral Sunil Lanba who retires on May 31. At present, Vice Admiral Singh is serving as the Flag Officer

Commanding in Chief of the Eastern Naval Command in Visakhapatnam. In his 36-year-old career, Karambir Singh has commanded an Indian Coast Guard Ship, a Naval Missile Corvette as well as Guided Missile Destroyers. The Chief of the Naval Staff is the commander and the highest-ranking officer in the Indian Navy. The position is abbreviated CNS in Indian Navy cables and communication, and usually held by a four-star officer in the rank of Admiral.

9. ESPNcricinfo has tied up with which IIT to launch Superstats AI tool to analyse cricket statistics?

[A] IIT Bombay

[B] IIT Madras

[C] IIT Kanpur

[D] IIT Indore

- ✓ In Mumbai, ESPNcricinfo has partnered with IIT Madras to launch 'Superstats', a next level artificial intelligence tool that can analyse cricket statistics through machine learning.
- ✓ The tool will forecast if and how a player's or a team's performance can turn around a game, on real time. Superstats will analyse the game of cricket on a combination of stats metrics- Luck index, Forecaster and Smart Stats using data science for the first time to give a context to every event in a game and also venture into new territories such as luck and forecasting.
- ✓ According to IIT researchers, the algorithms process data to quantify the impact of luck and analyse the real value of a player's performance in the game of cricket on real time.
- ✓ Apart from forecasting, it also reveals trends and patterns during a game as the actual match data is fed on real time. For this, Superstats uses the vast ball-by-ball database of ESPNcricinfo, which has more than a decade of detailed data, and scientific methods, processes and complex algorithms based machine learning.
- ✓ This work was led by Raghunathan Rengaswamy and Mahesh Panchagnula of IIT-Madras along with the ESPN team.

10. On which date, the 2019 World Poetry Day (WPD) is celebrated recently?

[A] March 22

[B] March 23

[C] March 21

[D] March 20

- ✓ The World Poetry Day (WPD) is celebrated every year on 21st of March across the world to recognize the unique ability of poetry to capture the creative spirit of the human mind. . The day was adopted in 1999 during UNESCO's 30th session held in Paris.
- ✓ The observance of the day is also meant to encourage a return to the oral tradition of poetry recitals, to promote the teaching of poetry, to restore a dialogue between poetry and the other arts such as theatre, dance, music and painting, and to support small publishers and create an attractive image of poetry in the media, so that the art of poetry will no longer be considered an outdated form of art, but one which enables society as a whole to regain and assert its identity.

Winmeen Current Affairs

1. What is the theme of the 2019 World Water Day (WWD)?

- [A] Water for All
- [B] Nature for Water
- [C] Leaving no one behind
- [D] Better Water, Better Jobs

- ✓ The World Water Day (WWD) is observed every year on 22nd March to tackle the global water crisis in households, schools, workplaces and farms.
- ✓ This day is also celebrated as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.
- ✓ an opportunity to learn more about water related issues, be inspired to tell others and take action to make a difference. Water is an essential building block of life. It is more than just essential to quench thirst or protect health; water is vital for creating jobs and supporting economic, social, and human development.
- ✓ The 2019 theme 'Leaving no one behind' is the central promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The aim of Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) is to ensure availability and sustainable management of water for all by 2030. By definition, this means leaving no one behind.

2. Which of the following countries has officially renamed its capital as 'Nursultan'?

- [A] Kazakhstan
- [B] Kyrgyzstan
- [C] Tajikistan
- [D] Uzbekistan

- ✓ Kazakhstan has officially renamed its capital Astana to Nursultan to honour outgoing leader Nursultan Nazarbayev who stepped down as President after three decades in office.
- ✓ The change was announced after Kassym-Jomart Tokayev was sworn-in as president. He will serve for the remainder of the presidential term which expires in April 2020.

- ✓ Mr. Nazarbayev ruled Kazakhstan since before it gained independence with the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union.
- ✓ He steered the country through a major transformation, developing huge energy reserves and boosting its international influence, but was accused of cracking down on dissent and tolerating little opposition.
- ✓ Mr. Nazarbayev will continue to enjoy significant powers thanks to his Constitutional status as "Leader of the Nation", life-time position as chief of the security council and head of the ruling Nur Otan party. Astana was previously known as Ak-mola, Tselinograd and Ak-molinsk.

3. Haku Shah, who passed away recently, was the renowned personality of which field?

- [A] Journalism
- [B] Science
- [C] Art
- [D] Sports

- ✓ Haku Shah (85), the renowned Indian artist, has passed away in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on March 21, 2019. He was best known for his themes of tribal and folk art. Born on 26th March 1934, Shah did his Masters in Fine Art under renowned artists like K G Subrahmanyam.
- ✓ A large part of his work was deeply influenced by tribal art and culture, as well as the Bhakti movement, especially its Nirguna poetry.
- ✓ Shah was also a cultural anthropologist. He carried out extensive field research and documentation on rural and tribal arts and crafts, traditions and folk lore, and established a tribal museum at Gujarat Vidyapith.
- ✓ Fondly known as "Haku bhai", the award-winning artist also set up the first of its kind Crafts Village - Shilpgram in Udaipur in Rajasthan in the 1980s.
- ✓ Shah, who published his memoirs, "Manush" in 2009, received several awards including the Padma Shri (1989), the Jawarharlal Nehru Fellowship and the Kala Ratna for his contribution to art.

4. Fitch Ratings has recently cut India's GDP growth forecast for FY20 from 7.0% to ____?

[A] 6.9%

[B] 6.8%

[C] 6.6%

[D] 6.5%

- ✓ In its latest Global Economic Outlook (GEO), Fitch Ratings has recently cut India's economic growth forecast for the financial year FY20 starting April 1, to 6.8% from its previous estimate of 7%, on weaker than expected momentum in the economy.
- ✓ According to Fitch, the RBI has adopted a more dovish monetary policy stance and cut interest rates by 0.25 percentage at its February 2019 meeting, a move supported by steadily decelerating headline inflation.
- ✓ Fitch Ratings cut India's FY19 GDP growth forecast to 7.2% from 7.8% on December 6. The rating agency has also cut growth forecasts for FY20 and FY21 to 7% from 7.3% and 7.1% from 7.3%, respectively.

5. Which Indian company would provide digital solution for French Open?

[A] Tata

[B] Reliance

[C] Wipro

[D] Infosys

- ✓ Indian technology company Infosys has signed a three-year partnership agreement with Roland-Garros to provide technology solution for tennis tournament The French Open, also called Roland-Garros.
- ✓ The 3-year deal, running from 2019 to 2021, is aimed at enriching the game by providing fans, players and coaches with a new experience leveraging Infosys' expertise in digital technologies such as artificial intelligence, big data and analytics, mobility, virtual and augmented reality.
- ✓ As part of the partnership, Infosys and Roland-Garros will work on several new digitally-enabled experiences.
- ✓ These include a re-imagined fan experience powered by data and analytics, which will enable fans to follow live scores, "feel the pulse" of live matches, delve deeper into match analytics and understand what ultimately influenced the outcome of the

match. The tool will be available on the official Roland-Garros website during the tournament.

6. Which Indian hockey player has been named as member in Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) committee?

[A] Manpreet Singh

[B] Sandeep Singh

[C] Sardar Singh

[D] Dilip Tirkey

- ✓ Former India hockey captain Sardar Singh has been elected in the athletes standing committee of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) at its 38th General Assembly in Bangkok.
- ✓ Apart from him, IOA secretary general Rajeev Mehta was named in the culture standing committee. Hockey India secretary general Mohd Mustaque Ahmad is in the media standing committee, while Athletics Federation of India (AFI) president Adille Sumariwala and Lalit Bhanot have been elected in the sports for environment and sports standing committees respectively.
- ✓ All the members have been elected for a four-year term from 2019 to 2023. The OCA General Assembly was held in Bangkok on March 2 and 3.

7. India's deepest shaft cave has discovered in which of the following states?

[A] Meghalaya

[B] Arunachal Pradesh

[C] Assam

[D] Odisha

- ✓ India's deepest shaft cave has been discovered at Krem Um Ladaw in East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya during the 28th edition of the annual 'Caving in the Abode of the Clouds Expedition'.
- ✓ The cave has a 105 m deep shaft entrance passage. The cave has a 105 m deep shaft entrance passage. This comes a year after the discovery of the world's longest sandstone cave - Krem Puri - near the village of Laitsohum in Mawsynram region of East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya.
- ✓ With a length of 24,583 metres, Krem Puri was discovered back in 2016 but the actual length of the cave was obtained by the Meghalaya Adventurers' Association (MAA) during one of its expeditions.

- ✓ The cave system has fossils of dinosaurs, especially the Mosasaurus, a giant reptile that lived 66-76 million years ago. With all these discoveries, Meghalaya has become one of the top caving regions of the world.

8. The first-ever high-level dialogue on Indo-Pacific Cooperation (HLD-IPC) was held in which of the following cities?

- [A] Berlin
- [B] New Delhi
- [C] Jakarta
- [D] Paris

- ✓ The first-ever high-level dialogue on Indo-Pacific Cooperation (HLD-IPC) was held in Jakarta, Indonesia with theme was 'Towards a Peaceful, Prosperous, and Inclusive Region'.
- ✓ It was organized by Government of Indonesia and saw participation of all 18 EAS member states including India.
- ✓ The Dialogue reflected India's view that has outlined by PM Modi in 2018 Shangri-la Dialogue -- inclusive and transparent & rules based Indo-Pacific.
- ✓ The delegates participated in the thematic debate under three themes: sustainable development goals, maritime cooperation, and infrastructure and connectivity.
- ✓ The purpose of the dialogue was to urge all participating governments to talk openly about their plans for increasing cooperation and for building trust in Pacific Ocean and Indian Ocean region.

9. Which of the following airlines has become the first Indian low-cost airline to join IATA?

- [A] JetLite
- [B] SpiceJet
- [C] IndiGo
- [D] Air India Express

- ✓ SpiceJet has become the first Indian low-cost carrier to get the membership of global airlines' grouping International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- ✓ The membership also allows SpiceJet to explore and grow its collaborations with international member airlines of IATA through interlining and code shares.

- ✓ This will enable SpiceJet to seamlessly expand the network options for its passengers in future. The IATA represents more than 290 airlines, including Air India, Jet Airways and Vistara.

10. What is the India's rank in the 2019 UN World Happiness Index?

- [A] 116th
- [B] 140th
- [C] 135th
- [D] 124th

- ✓ On the occasion of World Happiness Day (WHD - 2019), the United Nations released the 7th annual World Happiness Report, which ranks the world's 156 countries on "how happy their citizens perceive themselves to be".
- ✓ In it, India has dropped 7 spots and is ranked 140th in the 2019 UN World Happiness Index. As a result, India featured in the five countries that had the largest drop since 2005-2008 in the index, along with Yemen, Syria, Botswana and Venezuela.
- ✓ Finland has been ranked as the happiest country in the world for the second year in succession. The Nordic nation is followed by Denmark, Norway, Iceland and The Netherlands.
- ✓ The report ranks countries on six key variables that support well-being: Income, freedom to make life choices, Trust, Healthy life expectancy, Social support and Generosity. The report noted that there has been an increase in negative emotions, including worry, sadness and anger.
- ✓ Pakistan is ranked 67th, Bangladesh 125th and China is placed at 93rd, according to the report. People in war-torn South Sudan are the most unhappy with their lives, followed by Central African Republic (155), Afghanistan (154), Tanzania (153) and Rwanda (152).

Winmeen Current Affairs

1. Who is the head of the RBI committee to deepen digital payments?

[A] Nandan Nilekani

[B] Shaktikanta Das

[C] Viral Acharya

[D] BP Kanungo

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently appointed 5-member committee under the chairmanship of Nandan Nilekani to further deepen digital payments and enhance financial inclusion through Fintech.
- ✓ The panel would assess the current levels of digital payments in financial inclusion, suggest measures to strengthen the safety and security of digital payments, provide a road map for increasing customer confidence to use digital transactions, and suggest a medium-term strategy for deepening of digital payments.
- ✓ Financial technology (often shortened to Fintech) is computer programs and a new technology innovation that aims to compete with traditional financial methods in the delivery of financial services. The committee will submit its report in 90 days from its first meeting.

2. What is the India's rank in the 2019 WEF global Energy Transition index?

[A] 78th

[B] 76th

[C] 79th

[D] 74th

- ✓ India has moved up two places to rank 76th on a global energy transition index 2019. This annual list, compiled by Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF), has ranked 115 economies on how well they are able to balance energy security and access with environmental sustainability and affordability.
- ✓ Sweden remains on the top on this annual list and is followed by Switzerland and Norway in the top three. Among major economies, the UK is ranked 7th, Singapore 13th, Germany 17th, Japan 18th and the US 27th.

- ✓ Within Asia, Malaysia is ranked highest at 31st, Sri Lanka is 60th, Bangladesh 90th and Nepal 93rd. The report said that India is amongst the countries with high pollution levels and has a relatively high CO2 intensity in its energy system.
- ✓ Despite this, India has made significant strides to improve energy access in recent years, and currently scores well in the area of regulation and political commitment towards energy transition.
- ✓ The report suggested there was a ground for optimism regarding India despite the current outdated energy system not being ready for the transition because an enabling environment is being built to support the future transition.

3. What is the theme of the 2019 World Meteorological Day (WMD)?

[A] Hotter, drier, wetter

[B] Understanding Clouds

[C] Climate Ready, Climate-Smart

[D] The Sun, the Earth and the weather

- ✓ The World Meteorological Day (WMD) is observed every year on 23rd of March to mark the establishment of World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on this day in 1950. This year, the organisation is celebrating its 69th anniversary.
- ✓ The 2019 theme "The Sun, the Earth and the weather" recognizes the critical role that the Earth's nearest star plays in what transpires on the planet. The energy that the Sun sends towards the Earth is taken up by all life forms to perform their biological functions.
- ✓ It also regulates global climate, which, in turn, influences local weather conditions. The same energy is also absorbed by the oceans which carry it around the planet, creating further conditions for diverse marine life to exist.

4. The researchers of which country have developed a new automated non-invasive technique for diagnosing eye surface cancer?

[A] India

[B] Australia

[C] Japan

[D] China

- ✓ Australian researchers, at the Australian Research Council (ARC) Centre of Excellence for Nanoscale BioPhotonics, have developed a new automated non-invasive technique for diagnosing eye surface cancer.
- ✓ The novel technique involves custom-building of an advanced imaging microscope linked with computing and Artificial Intelligence (AI) operations. It results in an automated system that is able to successfully identify between diseased and non-diseased eye tissue, in real-time, through a simple scanning process.
- ✓ The new technique scans natural light given off by specific eye cells -- diseased cells -- that have their own unique 'light-wave signature'.
- ✓ This new technique offers the potential to reduce the need for biopsies, prevent therapy delays, and make treatment far more effective for patients. Eye surface cancer, also known as Ocular Surface Squamous Neoplasia (OSSN), is a common malignancy of the cornea and conjunctiva parts of the eye.

5. What is the theme of the 2019 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination?

- [A] Learning from tragedies to combat racial discrimination today
 - [B] The Role of Leaders in Combatting Racism and Racial Discrimination
 - [C] Mitigating and countering rising nationalist populism and extreme supremacist ideologies
 - [D] Racial profiling and incitement to hatred, including in the context of migration
- ✓ The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed every year on 21st of March to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination.
 - ✓ This day commemorates the lives that have been lost to fight for democracy and equal human rights in South Africa during the Apartheid regime (a regime which embraced racial discrimination).
 - ✓ The 2019 theme is "Mitigating and countering rising nationalist populism and extreme supremacist ideologies". The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has also reiterated that all human beings are

born free and equal in dignity and rights and have the potential to contribute constructively to the development and well-being of their societies.

6. Which of the following Indian institutes has developed an anti cancer anti-inflammatory drug conjugated to the human serum Albumin?

- [A] Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute
 - [B] AIIMS
 - [C] National Institute of Biomedical Genomics
 - [D] Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences
- ✓ The Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST) has recently developed an anti cancer anti-inflammatory drug conjugated to the human serum Albumin.
 - ✓ It is an intravenous delivery system, enabling 100 fold increase in drug bio-availability and is a mix of human serum albumin and a plant based drug. This combination is the first of its kind as human albumin which is more compatible to the human body is being used.
 - ✓ Clinical trials in humans have to be completed and results assessed as the ensuing steps towards commercialisation. The institute has also developed the technology of isothermal based DNA amplification device to detect TB bacterium in sputum samples in less than 30 minutes. Nearly 2-3 million people are infected with Tuberculosis and the prevalence of totally drug resistant TB (TDR-TB) is very high in India.
 - ✓ The TB screening device employs a nucleic acid amplification technique to detect TB in less than 30 minutes with high specificity and without false positives.
 - ✓ It can simultaneously screen 20 patient samples in one assay and at considerably lower cost than the existing devices (costs approx Rs 2500/ sample). The device will also help in mass screening of population of people for TB at a substantially low cost.

7. Archana Kamath is associated to which of the following sports?

- [A] Judo
- [B] Table Tennis
- [C] Badminton

[D] Chess

- ✓ Indian paddler Archana Kamath clinched a silver in the under-21 women's singles section of the Seamaster ITTF Challenge Plus 2019 Oman Open table tennis tournament at Muscat. Archana started playing table tennis at the age of 9 years.
- ✓ She won her first U-12 and also a U -18 State title in 2011, and retained her Karnataka State No 1 Sub-Junior ranking throughout 2012 with some consistent performances. Since 2013 her career graph has seen a very steep rise. As a player, she describes herself as a fierce attacker.

8. PRISMA Satellite, which is in news recently, is associated to which of the following European countries?

[A] United Kingdom

[B] Germany

[C] France

[D] Italy

- ✓ On 21st March, Italy's PRISMA Earth observation satellite launched into orbit by the European Vega rocket from the Guiana Space Center in Kourou, French Guiana.
- ✓ PRISMA (or Precursore Iperspettrale della Missione Applicativa) is a small hyperspectral imaging satellite i.e. designed to provide information about environmental monitoring, resources management, pollution and crop health.
- ✓ The satellite includes a medium resolution camera that can view across all visual wavelengths, as well as a hyperspectral imager that can capture a wider range of wavelengths between 400 and 2500 nanometers.
- ✓ The satellite will operate in a sun-synchronous orbit, meaning that it circles the Earth in such a way that the sun is always in the same position as the satellite takes pictures of the planet below.
- ✓ PRISMA has been constructed by OHB Italia and will be operated by the Italian Space Agency "Agenzia Spaziale Italiana (ASI)".

9. Which Indian organisation has organized FinTech Conclave 2019?

[A] SEBI

[B] Ministry of Finance

[C] NITI Aayog

[D] RBI

- ✓ The Financial Technology (Fintech) Conclave has been organized by NITI Aayog in New Delhi and was inaugurated by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das.
- ✓ The objective of the conclave is to shape India's continued ascendancy in FinTech, build the narrative for future strategy and policy efforts, and to deliberate steps for comprehensive financial inclusion.
- ✓ Nearly 300 Representatives from across the financial space - central ministries, regulators, bankers, startups, service providers and entrepreneurs are participating in the conclave.
- ✓ India is one of the fastest growing FinTech markets globally and industry research has projected that USD 1 Trillion or 60% of retail and SME credit, will be digitally disbursed by 2029. The Indian FinTech ecosystem is the third largest in the globe, attracting nearly USD 6 billion in investments since 2014.

10. The Langkawi International Maritime Aero Expo (LIMA) 2019 has started in which of the following countries?

[A] Indonesia

[B] Vietnam

[C] Malaysia

[D] Myanmar

- ✓ The Langkawi International Maritime Aero Expo (LIMA-2019) has started in Langkawi, Malaysia from 26 March 2019 to 30 March 2019.
- ✓ Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in the Maritime Aero Expo for the first time, during which it will showcase its indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Tejas.
- ✓ The participation of IAF in LIMA-2019 will provide an opportunity to air-warriors to interact with their Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) counterparts and foster close relationship between the two services.
- ✓ This will serve as a foundation for any future interaction with the Malaysian Air Force. It will also provide an opportunity to RMAF to assess the capabilities of LCA.

Winmeen Current Affairs

1. What is the theme of the 2019 World Tuberculosis Day (WTD)?

- [A] Gear up to end TB
- [B] Unite to End TB
- [C] Wanted: Leaders for a TB-free world
- [D] It's time

- ✓ The World Tuberculosis Day (WTD) is observed every year on 24th March to raise public awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences of TB, and to step up efforts to end the global TB epidemic.
- ✓ The date marks the day in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes TB, which opened the way towards diagnosing and curing this disease.
- ✓ The 2019 theme "It's time" pressurizes world leaders to act on their commitments.

2. Golan Heights, sometimes seen in news, is the disputed region between which of the following countries?

- [A] Iran & Israel
- [B] Afghanistan & Pakistan
- [C] Syria & Israel
- [D] Iraq & Israel

- ✓ On 25th March, US President Donald Trump has officially recognized Israeli sovereignty over the occupied Golan Heights.
- ✓ With this, Israel has got an absolute right to self-defence. Israel captured the Golan Heights from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war, and subsequently annexed it in 1981. But, Israel's sovereignty over the territory is not recognized by the international community.
- ✓ Mr Trump's move reversed more than a half-century of the US policy over the issue. Meanwhile, Russia said, it feared a new wave of tensions in the West Asia following the decision by Washington to recognise Israeli sovereignty over the disputed Golan Heights, which are claimed by Syria.
- ✓ The Syrian government has criticized the move calling it a blatant attack on its sovereignty. The Golan Heights is a rocky plateau in south-western

Syria. It is located about 60km south-west of the Syrian capital 'Damascus', and covers about 1,200 sq km.

- ✓ The area is also a key source of water for an arid region. Rainwater from the Golan's catchment feeds into the Jordan River.
- ✓ The area provides a third of Israel's water supply. The land is fertile, and the volcanic soil is used to cultivate vineyards and orchards and raise cattle. The Golan is also home to Israel's only ski resort.

3. Who is the author of the book 'Every Vote Counts-The Story of India's Elections'?

- [A] N Gopalaswamy
- [B] Sunil Arora
- [C] Navin Chawla
- [D] B B Tandon

- ✓ The book titled "Every Vote Counts-The Story of India's Elections" has been authored by former Chief Election Commissioner Navin Chawla.
- ✓ It was launched by former Vice President of India, Hamid Ansari in New Delhi. This book is about how the electoral machinery works in India.
- ✓ It explains about India is on the cusp of change, and with its parliamentary elections coming up.

4. Who has become the first batsman to score 5,000 runs in IPL history?

- [A] Virat Kohli
- [B] Ajinkya Rahane
- [C] Suresh Raina
- [D] Rohit Sharma

- ✓ Chennai Super Kings star Suresh Raina has scripted history as he became the first cricketer in the history of the Indian Premier League (IPL) to score 5,000 runs.
- ✓ He reached the milestone during the first match of the 2019 IPL season against Royal Challengers Bangalore at MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai. Raina has 5000 runs from 177 matches at a strike-rate of 138.15 including 35 fifties and one hundred.

5. Which county has launched a programme "Lose to Win" to help overweight employers?

[A] UAE

[B] Pakistan

[C] Bangladesh

[D] Myanmar

- ✓ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) government has launched a programme, titled "Lose to Win", to help overweight employees to shed extra kilos and adopt a healthy lifestyle.
- ✓ The programme involves adopting a healthy diet and engaging in physical activity, helping employees lose excessive weight within 8 weeks.
- ✓ The programme team comprises nutritionists and health educators from Health and Education Department of the ministry.
- ✓ Apart from awareness sessions, the programme includes a workshop on healthy nutrition where the participants are briefed on essential topics, including how to read food labels as well as explaining the make-up of balanced diets.

6. Who is the recipient of the Global Teacher Prize 2019?

[A] Andria Zafirakou

[B] Hanan Al Hroub

[C] Nancie Atwell

[D] Peter Tabichi

- ✓ Peter Tabichi, a science teacher from rural Kenya who donates most of his salary to help poorer students, has been crowned the world's best teacher and awarded a \$1m prize in Dubai.
- ✓ He is the maths and physics teacher at Keriko secondary school in Pwani Village, in a remote part of Kenya's Rift Valley, has won the Varkey Foundation Global Teacher Prize 2019.
- ✓ Tabichi gives away 80% of his income to help the poorest students who live in poverty and are either orphans or from single-parent families.
- ✓ He changed the lives of his students in many ways, including the introduction of science clubs and the promotion of peace between different ethnic groups and religions. He has also helped to address food insecurity among the wider community in the famine-prone Rift Valley.
- ✓ Drug abuse, teen pregnancies, drop-outs, and suicide are common, and the school has one computer, poor internet access, and a student-teacher ratio of 58:1.

In spite of those circumstances, Tabichi's science students have won various national science competitions, and qualified to participate at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair 2019 in the US.

7. Abhedya, which is in news recently, is associated to which of the following fields?

[A] Satellite

[B] Super computer

[C] Nuclear Training facility

[D] Military exercise

- ✓ The Indian Navy's Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Training Facility (NBCTF) has been inaugurated by Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lanba at INS Shivaji in Lonavala near Pune.
- ✓ The NBCTF, christened "Abhedya", impenetrable in Sanskrit, will help train personnel of naval ships fitted with nuclear, biological and chemical detection and protection systems.
- ✓ The facility will provide realistic training to naval personnel in detection, protection against and decontamination of nuclear, biological and chemical agents.

8. Port of Duqm, sometimes seen in news, is located in which of the following countries?

[A] UAE

[B] Oman

[C] Iran

[D] Pakistan

- ✓ The United States has recently clinched a strategic port deal with Oman that allow American ships and warplanes to take advantage of two Arabian Sea ports of Duqm and Salalah located near strategic Strait of Hormuz.
- ✓ The framework agreement is aimed at bolstering Omani-American military relations. With this pact, the US military will have better access to Gulf region and will reduce the need to send ships through the Strait of Hormuz, a maritime choke point off Iran.
- ✓ The agreement will allow the US forces to take advantage from the facilities offered at some of the Sultanate's ports and airports during visits of the US military vessels and aircraft.

- ✓ These two Omani ports - Duqm and Salalah are located just outside the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow outlet through which about a 5th of the world's oil trade exits the Persian Gulf. The Port of Duqm is located on the south-eastern seaboard of Oman, overlooking the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean.
- ✓ The narrow waterway is also an international transit route where American forces routinely pass and which has seen tense encounters between them and Iranian forces in the past.

9. Emisat satellite, which is in news recently, is associated to which country?

[A] India

[B] Japan

[C] China

[D] South Korea

- ✓ On 1st of April 2019, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch a 436 kg electronic intelligence satellite Emisat for the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) along with 28 satellites of international customers from the spaceport of Sriharikota.
- ✓ It will also demonstrate its new technologies like three different orbits with a new variant of PSLV rocket 'PSLV-C45'.
- ✓ Emisat is a satellite based on ISRO's Indian Mini Satellite -2 (IMS-2) bus platform. It has been developed for monitoring radar network by India and is intended for electromagnetic spectrum measurement. It will be placed in an orbit of about 753 km altitude.
- ✓ The customer payloads are from Lithuania, Spain, Switzerland and the US. They will be hurled into space at an altitude of about 505 km.

10. Who has been elected as new President of Basketball Federation of India (BFI)?

[A] Chengalraya Naidu

[B] Ralin de Souza

[C] Jugraj Singh

[D] K Govindaraj

- ✓ K Govindaraj has been re-elected as president of the Basketball Federation of India (BFI). The BFI is the governing and controlling body of Basketball in

India. It is responsible for the development and promotion of the sport at all levels.

- ✓ BFI manages all the national level basketball operations in India. It is involved in organizing training camps and national tournaments, and in preparing Indian teams for both men and women international competitions in various age categories.
- ✓ The national team of India is also called as Young Cagers.

Winmeen Current Affairs

1. India has successfully tested its first-ever Anti-Satellite (A-SAT) Missile capability under which of the following missions?

- [A] Mission Avatar
- [B] Mission Talwar
- [C] Mission Nisar
- [D] Mission Shakti

- ✓ On 27th March, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted its first-ever Anti-Satellite (A-SAT) missile test 'Mission Shakti' from the Dr AP J Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha.
- ✓ A DRDO-developed Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) Interceptor Missile has successfully shot down a live satellite on a Low Earth Orbit (LEO), which is 300km from the earth, within three minutes.
- ✓ Hence, Mission Shakti is an important step towards securing India's safety, economic growth and technological advancement. With this feat, India has joined elite group of four along with US, Russia & China.
- ✓ A-SATs are space weapons designed to disable or destroy satellites for strategic military purposes. Most military satellites orbit up to 2,000 km above the earth's surface on LEO.
- ✓ However, no country has used A-SAT system in warfare till now. Several nations have shot down their own (defunct) satellites to demonstrate their ASAT capabilities in a show of force.

2. The researchers of which IIT have developed AI based disease detector?

- [A] IIT-Hyderabad
- [B] IIT-Kharagpur
- [C] IIT-Delhi
- [D] IIT-Bombay

- ✓ The researchers at IIT-Delhi have designed an "Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based low-power electronic hardware system" to easily detect Malaria, Tuberculosis (TB), Intestinal parasite, and Cervical cancer in a few milliseconds.

- ✓ The research is focused on building an intelligent Neuromorphic system which can be used for healthcare access in resource-constrained areas with limited access to human specialists.
- ✓ The approach demonstrated by the researchers is portable, low-power and can classify with high accuracy in detection of the diseases.
- ✓ The long-term impact and goal of this work will be to enable potential future deployment of the platform in rural and resource-constrained areas and improve the access to diagnostic health-care.
- ✓ According to World Health Organisation (WHO), cervical cancer is the 4th most frequent cancer in women with an estimated 570,000 new cases in 2018 representing 6.6% of all female cancers.

3. On which date, the 2019 World Theatre Day (WTD) is observed recently?

- [A] March 27
- [B] March 25
- [C] March 28
- [D] March 24

- ✓ The World Theatre Day (WTD) is observed every year on 27th of March to draw attention to the power of the stage. It also tells the importance of theater arts as it continues to move, entertain, teach and change us.
- ✓ The day was initiated in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute (ITI), the world organization for performing arts.
- ✓ The day is a celebration for those who can see the value and importance of the art form "theatre", and acts as a wake-up-call for governments, politicians and institutions which have not yet recognized its value to the people and to the individual and have not yet realized its potential for economic growth.

4. The GRAPES-3 experiment, which is in news recently, is located in which of the following sites of India?

- [A] Leh
- [B] Ooty
- [C] Tawang
- [D] Udaipur

- ✓ For the first time in the world, researchers at the GRAPES-3 muon telescope facility in Ooty have

measured the electrical potential, size and height of a thundercloud that passed overhead on December 1, 2014.

- ✓ The study of thunderclouds is helpful in navigation of aircraft and preventing short circuits in aeroplanes. At 1.3 gigavolts (GV), this cloud had 10 times higher potential than the previous record in a cloud.
- ✓ This is not because clouds with such high potentials are a rarity, but rather, because the methods of detection have not been successful so far. The structure of Cloud is that clouds have negative charges along their lower side and positive charges on top and can be several kilometres thick. If balloons are used to measure the potential difference between the top and bottom, they will take hours to traverse the distance.
- ✓ Unfortunately, thunderstorms last only for about 15-20 minutes, and this method fails. The GRAPES-3 experiment (or Gamma Ray Astronomy PeV EnergieS phase-3) located at Ooty in Tamil Nadu and is designed to study cosmic rays with an array of air shower detectors and a large area muon detector.

5. The world's largest e-waste recycling hub has opened in which of the following cities?

- [A] Dubai
- [B] Tehran
- [C] Paris
- [D] Istanbul

- ✓ The world's largest e-waste recycling facility has recently opened at the Dubai Industrial Park in United Arab Emirates (UAE) on an area of 280,000 square feet.
- ✓ 120 million dirhams (\$5 million) project has been set up by "Enviroserve" company with support of Swiss Government Export Finance Agency. It will service international e-waste recycling efforts across Africa, Middle East and Caucasus region.
- ✓ The facility will utilise state-of-the-art reclamation technology, which surpasses the European Union's standards for e-waste.
- ✓ It will process Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), IT Asset Disposition (ITAD), refrigerant gas and specialized waste.

- ✓ It has a processing capacity of 100,000 tonnes of total integrated waste per year, of which 39,000 tonnes is e-waste. The facility can process the entire range of WEEE from consumer and industrial to commercial and military.

6. The researchers of which IIT has analysed that urban areas are cooler than non-urban areas during heat waves?

- [A] IIT-Roorkee
- [B] IIT-Kharagpur
- [C] IIT-Gandhinagar
- [D] IIT-Hyderabad

- ✓ The researchers at IIT-Gandhinagar has conducted study of 89 urban areas in India. In it, they found that though there is an absolute increase in temperature during heat waves in both urban and non-urban areas, the urban areas are relatively cooler than the surrounding non-urban areas. At 1.94°C, the absolute increase in temperature during the day in non-urban areas during a heat wave was significantly higher than in urban areas (0.14°C).
- ✓ According to the analysis, urban areas were found to be relatively cooler than the surrounding non-urban areas during heat waves. At 44.5°C, the non-urban areas were warmer than urban areas (43.7°C).
- ✓ However, during the night, all urban areas were hotter than the surrounding non-urban areas. The study suggested that the lack of vegetation cover in summer after crops are harvested in rural areas may be the cause. The study was published in the journal 'Environmental Research Communications'.

7. Ashitha, who passed away recently, was the well-known writer of which language?

- [A] Telugu
- [B] Malayalam
- [C] Odia
- [D] Tamil

- ✓ Ashitha (63), the renowned Malayalam writer, has passed away in Thrissur, Kerala on March 27, 2019. She portrayed the inner pangs and feelings of women through her touching stories and poems.
- ✓ Born at Pazhayannur in Thrissur on April 5, 1956, Ashitha had created her own space among women

writers of Malayalam through her unique writing style and selection of topics for stories.

- ✓ The writer contributed in popularising haiku poems in Malayalam through her translations and her stories were known for the sensitive portrayal of life.
- ✓ Her notable works include 'Mazhameghangal', 'Oru Streeyum Parayathath', 'Vismaya Chhihnnangal', 'Apoorna Viramangal', and 'Ashithayude Kathakal'.

8. Mankading, sometimes seen in news, is associated to which of the following sports?

[A] Basketball

[B] Cricket

[C] Football

[D] Hockey

- ✓ Mankading is a method of run out where a bowler dismisses a non-striker by hitting the bails before bowling when the latter is outside the crease.
- ✓ Though this is a legally permissible dismissal, it is considered against the spirit of the game. The method is named after legendary Indian bowler Vinoo Mankad.
- ✓ During India's tour of Australia in 1947, Vinoo Mankad had dismissed Bill Brown, not once but twice by removing the bails when he was outside the crease.
- ✓ It is in news recently because Kings XI Punjab captain and bowler Ravichandran Ashwin dismissed Jos Buttler in a run out popularly called 'Mankading' during a match against Rajasthan Royals at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur in 2019 IPL.
- ✓ The Laws of Cricket 41.16 states that a "Non-striker leaving his/her ground early: If the non-striker is out of his/her ground from the moment the ball comes into play to the instant when the bowler would normally have been expected to release the ball, the bowler is permitted to attempt to run him/her out.
- ✓ Whether the attempt is successful or not, the ball shall not count as one in the over." The law also states that if the bowler fails in an attempt to run out the non-striker, the umpire shall call and signal Dead ball as soon as possible.

9. Which technology giant has launched India-specific tools to boost election engagement?

[A] Facebook

[B] Microsoft

[C] Infosys

[D] Twitter

- ✓ In the wake of the 2019 Lok Sabha Elections, Facebook has launched two new India-specific tools to boost civic engagement on its platform — Candidate Connect and Share You Voted.
- ✓ The first feature 'Candidate Connect' allows people to see short 20 second videos uploaded by candidates and cross compare them with what other candidates have to say on the same pre-selected topic in 12 Indian languages.
- ✓ While, the "Share You Voted" will provide people with polling information and enable them to announce and celebrate their vote. Facebook has also set up 24x7 response team for elections for monitoring and tracking of objectionable content in real time round the clock.
- ✓ The election response team will be based in Singapore and will work closely with the Election Commission of India (ECI).

10. Vinjamuri Anasuya Devi, who passed away recently, was the renowned folk artist of which state?

[A] Karnataka

[B] Andhra Pradesh

[C] Kerala

[D] Maharashtra

- ✓ Vinjamuri Anasuya Devi (99), the eminent folk artist, radio commentator, harmonium player, music composer and author, has passed away at Houston in the USA.
- ✓ She used music as a tool to spread the message of social equality in the days when the society considered women coming out of their homes as a taboo.
- ✓ Born on 1920 in Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh), she had actively participated in Indian freedom struggle and represented her talent in front of freedom fighters such as Mahatma Gandhi, Subhash Chandra Bose, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sarvepally Radhakrishnan.
- ✓ She had composed and sung "Jaya Jaya Jaya Priya Bharathi", a famous patriotic song written by her uncle Devulapally Krishna Shastry.

- ✓ She recently published her two books, Bava Geetalu and Compilation of Folk Songs. She was honoured with a Doctorate by Andhra University in 1977 and received a lifetime achievement award in America and 'Queen of Folk' award in Paris.

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Winmeen Current Affairs

1. Who has been appointed as the new BCCI's ad-hoc Ethics Officer?

[A] Pradeep Kumar

[B] D K Jain

[C] **K T Joshi**

[D] Dipak Misra

- ✓ Justice (Retd.) DK Jain, who is the newly appointed ombudsman for the BCCI, will also be its ad-hoc Ethics Officer.
- ✓ The mandate of the Ethics Officer is to look into matters of conflict of interest involving players, coaches and officials. Justice Jain is already looking into Hardik Pandya-KL Rahul chat show controversy due to which the duo served provisional suspension.
- ✓ The Rule 39(1) of the new BCCI Constitution states: "The BCCI shall appoint an Ethics Officer at the Annual General Meeting for the purpose of guidance and resolution in instances of conflict of interest.
- ✓ The Ethics Officer shall be a retired Judge of a High Court so appointed by the BCCI after obtaining his/her consent and on terms as determined by the BCCI in keeping with the dignity and stature of the office.
- ✓ The term of an Ethics Officer shall be one year, subject to a maximum of 3 terms in office.

2. Who of the following has /have won the 2018 ACM A.M. Turing Award?

[A] Yann LeCun

[B] Geoffrey Hinton

[C] Yoshua Bengio

[D] **All of the above**

- ✓ Three researchers - Yoshua Bengio, Geoffrey Hinton, and Yann LeCun have won the 2018 ACM A.M. Turing Award for conceptual and engineering breakthroughs in Artificial Intelligence (AI) that have made deep neural networks a critical component of computing.
- ✓ Bengio is Professor at the University of Montreal and Scientific Director at Mila, Quebec's Artificial Intelligence Institute; Hinton is VP and Engineering Fellow of Google, Chief Scientific Adviser of The

Vector Institute, and University Professor Emeritus at the University of Toronto; and LeCun is Professor at New York University and VP and Chief AI Scientist at Facebook.

- ✓ The ACM A.M. Turing Award is often referred to as the "Nobel Prize of Computing". It is the premier international award for achievements in computing and includes a \$1 million prize funded by Google Inc.
- ✓ It is named for Alan M. Turing, the British mathematician who articulated the mathematical foundation and limits of computing.

3. Prafulla Rajguru, the veteran journalist and academician passed away recently. He was from which state?

[A] **Assam**

[B] Odisha

[C] Jharkhand

[D] West Bengal

- ✓ Prafulla Rajguru (82), the veteran journalist and academician, has passed away in Jorhat, Assam on March 28, 2019.
- ✓ Rajguru had retired as the head of the department of English from DCB Girls College in Jorhat in 1997 and after his retirement he joined leading Assamese daily 'Amar Asom' as executive editor of the Jorhat edition where he served till 2000.
- ✓ Rajguru authored four books and was a member of several social organisations like the Asom Sahitya Sabha. He was also the founder president of Jorhat Press Club and was its adviser till his death.

4. Tashigang, which is the world's highest polling station, is located in which of the following Indian states?

[A] Jammu & Kashmir

[B] Arunachal Pradesh

[C] **Himachal Pradesh**

[D] Sikkim

- ✓ Tashigang, a small village of Himachal Pradesh, has now become the world's highest polling station. The polling station falls in Buddhist-dominated Lahaul-Spiti district of the state at an altitude of 15,256 feet, and is one of the 17 assembly segments that form the Mandi Lok Sabha seat, the second largest constituency in the country.

- ✓ Located around 29 km from the India-China border, this polling station covers two villages - Tashigang and Gete.
- ✓ As per the revised electoral rolls, the two villages have 48 voters, of which 30 are men and 18 women.
- ✓ 78-year-old Rigjin is the oldest voter at this polling station. Earlier, the non-descript tiny settlement of Hikkim, positioned at an altitude of about 14,400 ft, was the highest polling station in India.

5. Which international organisation has recently released the 2018 global Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI)?

- [A] IMF
- [B] WHO
- [C] UNDP
- [D] IEA

- ✓ According to the 2018 global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), India has reduced its poverty rate drastically from 55% to 28% in 10 years between 2005-06 and 2015-16.
- ✓ The report, covering 105 countries, dedicates a chapter to India because of this remarkable progress. In India, a total of 271 million (27.10 crore) people moved out of poverty during these ten years. However, India still had 364 million poor in 2015-16, the largest for any country, although it is down from 635 million in 2005-06.
- ✓ The report was recently released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI). The report said that across the 640 districts in India, the poorest district is Alirajpur in Madhya Pradesh, where 76.5% of people are MPI poor.
- ✓ Among states, Jharkhand had the greatest improvement, with Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, and Nagaland only slightly behind. However, Bihar is still the poorest state in 2015-16, with more than half of its population in poverty.

6. Which international organisation has recently published the 'Global Energy & CO2 Status Report'?

- [A] WTO
- [B] IEA
- [C] WHO

[D] WMO

- ✓ The International Energy Agency (IEA) has recently published the 'Global Energy & CO2 Status Report', which is designed to provide an update on the world's energy markets, including the latest available data for oil, natural gas, coal, wind, solar, nuclear power, electricity, and energy efficiency.
- ✓ According to the Report, According to the IEA's Global Energy & CO2 status report, India saw primary energy demand increase 4% or over 35 million tonne of oil equivalent in 2018. This accounts for 11% of global demand growth. Comparably, energy consumption worldwide grew by 2.3% in 2018. This is nearly twice the average rate of growth since 2010.
- ✓ Global energy demand growth was driven by a robust economy as well as higher heating and cooling needs in some parts of the world. The growth in India was led by coal for power generation and oil for transport.
- ✓ The world's three largest energy intensive countries, China, the United States, and India, together accounted for nearly 70% of the rise in global energy demand.

7. The scientists from which country have discovered a network of lakes beneath Totten glacier in East Antarctica?

- [A] Australia
- [B] India
- [C] Japan
- [D] China

- ✓ The researchers from Australian Antarctic Program have discovered a network of lakes lying under the ice during their 160-day expedition to the Totten Glacier, the largest in eastern Antarctica.
- ✓ The lakes were detected by scientists setting off small explosives 2m below the surface of the Totten glacier and listening to the reflected sound. They are discovered by using seismic studies, which were conducted to find out if there is bedrock or water, as sub-glacial lakes or ocean, under the ice.
- ✓ The study has shown that there are substantial amount of water found in these lakes could impact the predicted rise of the sea level. Thus, this research

may help scientists predicting how melting of Antarctic glaciers would change the world's oceans polar ice will change the world's oceans in the future.

- ✓ The Totten glacier is 30km wide and up to 2km thick, and has the potential to raise sea levels by 7m. The seismic study involved setting off a series of small explosions at about 2m below the surface of the glacier.

8. What is the theme of 2019 International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and Transatlantic Slave Trade?

[A] Remember Slavery: Triumphs and Struggles for Freedom and Equality

[B] Women and Slavery

[C] Remember Slavery: The Power of the Arts for Justice

[D] Breaking the Silence, Lest We Forget

- ✓ The International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and Transatlantic Slave Trade is observed every year on 25th of March to honour and remember those who suffered and died at the hands of the transatlantic slavery system. The day also aims to raise awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice today.
- ✓ The 2019 theme "Remember Slavery: The Power of the Arts for Justice", aims to recognize the importance of art in confronting slavery, to raise awareness of the struggles and to empower those who have been affected by it.

9. Sharda corridor plan, which is in news recently, is related to which of the following countries?

[A] Nepal

[B] Pakistan

[C] Sri Lanka

[D] Myanmar

- ✓ There was a proposal of the Pakistan government to establish a corridor that will allow Hindu pilgrims from India to visit Sharda Peeth, an ancient Hindu temple and cultural site in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).
- ✓ However, on 28 March 2019, Pakistan said no decision has been taken so far on the opening of the Sharda temple corridor for Hindu pilgrims from India in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and asserted

that there should be "a positive atmosphere" for taking such steps.

10. Which of the following sports has/have been recommended by IOC for 2024 Paris Olympics?

[A] Sport climbing

[B] Break dancing

[C] Skate boarding

[D] All of the above

- ✓ The Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has recommended adding Break dancing, skateboarding, sport climbing and surfing to the 2024 Paris Olympic Games when the full membership meets in June.
- ✓ A final decision must be made by the board in December 2020 after further monitoring of the four. The addition of these four sports to the Paris medal program offers the opportunity to connect with the young generation.
- ✓ All four sports will be assessed in terms of how they are managed, the integrity of competitions and judging, before being finalized for Paris.

Winmeen Current Affairs

1. Which state Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) has launched the Enajori initiative for PwD?

[A] Kerala

[B] Assam

[C] Bihar

[D] West Bengal

- ✓ Assam Chief Electoral Officer Mukesh Sahu launched the Enajori initiative in Guwahati. It is a special initiative for persons with disabilities with an aim that 'No Voter to be Left behind'.
- ✓ It is a joint initiative of CEO Assam and Social Welfare Department (SWD) with an objective to make 2019 Lok Sabha Elections accessible to Persons with Disability (PwD) voters. Under this initiative, comprehensive mapping of PwDs will be done in consultation with Booth Level Officers, Divyang Sarothis and a woman mascot-Chandraprabha, to facilitate the PwD voters for barrier-free and inclusive accessible elections.
- ✓ Under Enajori, sensitization programmes will be conducted by SWD to make aware the PwD voters about Braille system. A special initiative will be undertaken to make Braille voter slips and Braille ballot paper to facilitate blind voters.

2. Which international organisation has passed resolution to combat terrorist financing?

[A] World Bank

[B] ADB

[C] UNSC

[D] AIIB

- ✓ The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has unanimously passed the first-ever resolution ordering members to enforce laws against terror financing. The resolution demands all states to ensure that their domestic laws and regulations establish serious criminal offenses to collect funds or financial resources to terrorist groups or individual criminals.
- ✓ It also calls on members to create financial intelligence units. Nations that fail to carry out the resolution would face U.N. sanctions. U.N. counter-

terrorism chief Vladimir Voronkov said the resolution comes at a "critical time," adding terrorists have gotten their hands on cash through both illegal and legal channels.

3. Which Indian sports organization has won the Best Sports Federation award by ASSOCHAM?

[A] All India Tennis Association

[B] All India Football Federation

[C] National Rifle Association of India

[D] Badminton Association of India

- ✓ The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) has been awarded the "Best Sports Federation" award in the country by the Association Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM). This is another feather in the cap of the shooting sport community.
- ✓ NRAI is affiliated to International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF), Asian Shooting Confederation (ASC), Commonwealth Shooting Federation (CSF), South Asian Shooting Confederation and Indian Olympic Association (IOA). It was founded in 1951 with a view to promote and popularize the shooting sports in India.

4. Which Indian personality is the recipient of the Oxford University's Bodley Medal 2019?

[A] Amartya Sen

[B] Raghuram Rajan

[C] Manmohan Singh

[D] Arvind Subramanian

- ✓ Nobel Prize-winning economist Amartya Sen has been awarded the prestigious 2019 Bodley Medal, the highest honour bestowed by the University of Oxford's world-famous Bodleian Libraries. Sen received the medal in Oxford during an event called the 'Founder's Lunch' from Chris Patten, chancellor of the university, and Richard Ovenden, librarian.
- ✓ Beside him, other winner of the 2019 Bodley Medal is Nobel Prize-winning novelist Kazuo Ishiguro, who will receive it during the Oxford Literary Festival on April 3. The Medal is awarded to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the fields in which the Bodleian is active, including literature, culture, science and communication.

- ✓ The medal was instituted in 1646 by Thomas Bodley, founder of the libraries. The Bodleian Library is the main library in the Bodleian Libraries group and is second in size only to the British Library. First opened in 1602, the group holds over 13 million printed items.

5. Which Indian teacher has won the 2019 Martha Farrell Award in the category of 'Most Promising Individual'?

[A] D. P. Chattopadhyaya

[B] Anand Kumar

[C] **Manu Gulati**

[D] Ram Puniyani

- ✓ Manu Gulati, a teacher from a Delhi government school, was honoured with the 2019 Martha Farrell Award in the category of 'Most Promising Individual' for her decades of efforts in enabling a gender-neutral society by coaching boys and girls in Delhi schools.
- ✓ The Martha Farrell awards were instituted in memory of Martha Farrell, who was a passionate civil society leader, renowned and respected in India and around the world for her work on women's rights, gender equality and adult education.
- ✓ The awards are given in two categories - 'Most Promising Individual' and 'Best Organization for Gender Equality' - to individuals and organizations working toward issues pertaining to gender equality.
- ✓ In the Gender Equality category, the 2019 award went to Mahila Jan Adhikar Samiti (MJAS), a women-led organisation which started as a collective of rural women and, eventually, transitioned into a registered organisation in 2000 to fight against domestic violence.

6. The world's longest salt cave has recently discovered in which of the following countries?

[A] **Israel**

[B] Iran

[C] Australia

[D] Brazil

- ✓ Israeli researchers have discovered the world's longest salt cave, called Malham. It stretches over 10

km, runs through Mount Sodom, Israel's largest mountain.

- ✓ The cave is a network of twisting passageways at the southern tip of the Dead Sea. It is near the desert site where, according to the Bible, Lot's wife was turned into a pillar of salt. The Malham cave is larger than the previous record-holding cave in Iran.
- ✓ Iran's Cave of the Three Nudes (Namakdan) on Qeshm Island, which is about 6km in length, was identified as the longest salt cave after a study by Czech and Iranian scientists in 2006.
- ✓ Mount Sodom is named after a location mentioned in the Book of Genesis, describing how Lot's wife became a pillar of salt after she looked back at Sodom.

7. The 2nd Joint Logistics Node (JLN) of tri-services has become operational in which of the following sites?

[A] Chennai

[B] Kolkata

[C] Kochi

[D] **Mumbai**

- ✓ The 2nd Joint Logistics Node (JLN) of tri-services has recently become operational at Naval base in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The first JLN consisting of the three services was set up at Andaman and Nicobar Islands in 2018.
- ✓ These centres will be used by the three services to procure rations, critical spares, and ammunition for basic weapons like rifles used by the Navy, Air Force and Army. The move aims to improve utilisation of resources, manpower and remove duplication.
- ✓ It has given the Indian defense forces a much-needed advantage against their adversaries, particularly those using the sea route from Pakistan.
- ✓ The JLN consists of three elements – the Joint Logistics Command & Control Centre (JLC&CC), which is the overall command organisation, the Tri-services Detachment at Material Organisation (TRIDAMO), which will meet logistical needs of the armed forces and the Triservices Advanced Detachment.

8. Which Indian organisation has decided to set up a regulatory sandbox for Fintech startups?

[A] RBI

[B] SEBI

[C] Ministry of Finance

[D] IRDA

- ✓ To promote innovation in FinTech space, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to set up a Regulatory Sandbox for Fintech Startups. The central bank will issue guidelines within two months for fintech companies to test their new products on a small group of users before scaling up.
- ✓ The sandbox will enable fintech companies to conduct live or virtual testing of their new products and services. It will also benefit fintech companies by way of reduced time to launch innovative products at a lower cost.
- ✓ These companies will also be able to test the viability of the product without a wider and expensive rollout. A regulatory sandbox is a framework set up by a regulator that allows FinTech startups to conduct live experiments in a controlled environment under supervision.
- ✓ Fintech (or financial technology) companies use technology to provide financial services such as payments, peer-to-peer lending and crowdfunding, among others.

9. Which railway station has received Gold Rating by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)?

[A] Jaipur

[B] Delhi

[C] Gwalior

[D] Vijayawada

- ✓ Vijayawada Railway Station has received Gold Rating by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for Green Measures. The station boasts of 100% LED lighting, five star rated fans, pumps and motors and solar water heating systems.
- ✓ It is one of the busiest railway junctions in the country. IGBC with the help of Environment Directorate of Indian Railways has come up with a system called Green Railway Stations Rating System (GRSRS) where railway stations will be encouraged to adopt more eco-friendly ways.
- ✓ The aim is to reduce the adverse effects to the environment because of the operation of the

railways, and also to make the experience of the journey better for the passengers.

- ✓ The rating system helps to address national priorities like water conservation, handling of waste, energy efficiency, reduced used of fossil fuel, lesser dependence on usage of virgin materials and health and well being of occupants.

10. Who is the author of the book "Indian Fiscal Federalism"?

[A] Urjit Patel

[B] Rajiv Mehrishi

[C] Y V Reddy

[D] Nripendra Misra

- ✓ The book titled "Indian Fiscal Federalism" has been authored by former RBI Governor Dr. Y V Reddy and co-authored by Dr. G R Reddy.
- ✓ The authors noted that the Niti Aayog should ideally be the focal point for all transfers from the Centre and states outside the recommendations of the Finance Commission.