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WINMEEN'S

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Winmeen Current Affairs

1. The Government of India (GoI) has set up a multi-disciplinary terror monitoring group (MDTMG) for which of the following states?

- [A] Bihar
- [B] Chhattisgarh
- [C] Arunachal Pradesh
- [D] J&K

- ✓ The Government of India (GoI) has set up a multi-disciplinary terror monitoring group (MDTMG) to ensure synergised and concerted action against terror financing and terror-related activities in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ✓ The MDTMG will have representatives from the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Intelligence Bureau, CBI, NIA, and Income Tax Department.
- ✓ It will also identify and take action against hardcore sympathisers among government employees, including teachers, who are providing covert or overt support to terror activities. Besides, it will also investigate the network of various channels being used to fund terror and terror related activities and take coordinated action to stop flow of such funds.
- ✓ The ADGP CID of JK Police will head the MDTMG which will meet on a weekly basis and submit their action taken report regularly.

2. Which of the following defines the event "Livre Paris" for which India has been designated as chief guest recently?

- [A] Trade Fair
- [B] Cultural Festival
- [C] Book Fair
- [D] Film Festival

- ✓ In a bid to strengthen Indo-French ties, India has been designated as the Guest of Honour at Paris Livre (Paris Book Fair) in 2020, while France will be the guest country at the New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF) in 2022.
- ✓ The announcement was recently made by the nodal agency – National Book Trust (NBT).
- ✓ The Livre Paris (Paris Book Fair) will take place from March 20 to 23, 2020. The designation of India as the

guest country was declared in the joint statement signed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron during the latter's visit to India in March 2018.

- ✓ The statement also mentions France as NDWBF's 2022 guest country.

3. Which IIT has tied up with Wipro for advanced research in 5G and AI?

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

- ✓ IT services major Wipro has recently partnered with IIT Kharagpur to collaborate on industry-focused applied research in the areas of 5G and Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- ✓ Research outcomes from this partnership will be leveraged by Wipro to develop solutions for its customers, across industry verticals. On the other hand, IIT Kharagpur will benefit from the commercialisation of the joint research insights and Wipro's industry expertise.
- ✓ Both organisations will focus on AI research applicable in the healthcare, education and retail sectors as well as in domains such as climate change and cybersecurity.
- ✓ In addition, subject matter experts from Wipro and IIT-Kharagpur will promote knowledge sharing through guest lectures, workshops and seminars on 5G and AI.

4. Which international organisation has launched 'The State of the Global Climate' report?

- [A] UNEP
- [B] IUCN
- [C] IPCC
- [D] WMO'

- ✓ The State of the Global Climate' report has recently launched by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- ✓ The report presented a grim picture of the accelerating physical signs and socio-economic impacts of the climate change across the world as record greenhouse gas concentrations drive global

temperatures towards increasingly dangerous levels.

- ✓ UN Chief Antonio Guterres has asked world leaders to come with concrete, realistic plans to boost climate action as greenhouse gas concentrations are driving global temperatures towards increasingly dangerous levels impacting millions of people.
- ✓ The report notes that 2018 was the fourth warmest year on record and 2015–2018 were the four warmest years on record as the long-term warming trend continues.
- ✓ Ocean heat content is also at a record high and global mean sea level continues to rise, while Arctic and Antarctic sea-ice extent is well below average.
- ✓ Average global temperature reached approximately 1°C above pre-industrial levels and nations are not on track to meet climate change targets and rein in temperature increases.

5. Which social networking site has recently banned White Nationalism & Separatism on its Platforms?

[A] Facebook

[B] Twitter

[C] Alphabet

[D] Tumblr

- ✓ Facebook Inc has recently banned praise, support and representation of white nationalism and separatism.
- ✓ This move has drawn a qualified approval from New Zealand where a massacre of 50 people in mosques was live streamed in March 2019.
- ✓ The social media giant also pledged to improve its ability to identify and block material from terrorist groups. The ban was a shift in Facebook's policy after criticism by civil rights groups that it was failing to confront extremism.
- ✓ Now, Facebook users searching for offending terms will be directed to a charity which combats far-right extremism. White nationalism is a type of nationalism or pan-nationalism which espouses the belief that white people are a race and seeks to develop and maintain a white national identity.
- ✓ On the other hand, White separatism is a separatist political and social movement that seeks the separation of white people from people of other

racings and ethnicities, the establishment of a white ethnostate by removing non-whites from existing communities or by forming new communities elsewhere.

6. The Union Government has launched a blockchain-enabled marketplace app for which of the following commodities?

[A] Sugarcane

[B] Coffee

[C] Tea

[D] Cotton

- ✓ In New Delhi, the Ministry of commerce has launched a blockchain-enabled marketplace app for coffee to help farmers integrate with markets so that they can realise fair prices for the commodity.
- ✓ The app is developed in coordination with Eka Software Solutions and is intended to bring in transparency in coffee trade and maintain the traceability of Indian coffee from bean to cup so as the consumer tastes real Indian coffee and the grower is paid fairly for his produce.
- ✓ The blockchain will also reduce the number of layers between coffee growers and buyers and help farmers double their income. India is the only country in the world where entire coffee is grown under shade, handpicked and sun dried.
- ✓ Indian coffee is highly valued in the world market and sold as premium coffees. The share of farmers in the final returns from coffee is very meagre.

7. Which Indian personality has been honoured with Croatia's highest civilian award- the Grand Order of the King of Tomislav?

[A] Narendra Modi

[B] Ram Nath Kovind

[C] Sushma Swaraj

[D] Arun Jaitley

- ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind has recently honoured with Croatia's highest civilian award — the Grand Order of the King of Tomislav.
- ✓ He is the first-ever Indian head of state to visit Croatia. The civilian order is awarded to heads of state for their important contribution towards the

development of state relations between Croatia and their respective countries.

- ✓ Kovind is currently on a three-country trip - Croatia, Bolivia and Chile -from March 25 to April 4 to strengthen bilateral ties between India and the three countries.

8. On which date, the 2019 International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is observed recently?

- [A] March 26
- [B] **March 25**
- [C] March 27
- [D] March 29

- ✓ The International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is observed every year on 25th of March by United Nations to mobilize action, demand justice and strengthen resolve to protect UN staff and peacekeepers, as well as colleagues in the non-governmental community and the press.
- ✓ The day commemorates the anniversary of the abduction of Alec Collett, a former journalist who was working for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) when he was kidnapped by armed gunman in 1985.
- ✓ His body was finally found in the Bekaa Valley, Lebanon in 2009.

9. Who is the author of the book "Gandhi: The Writer"?

- [A] Ravinder Singh
- [B] Durjoy Datta
- [C] **Bhabhani Bhattacharya**
- [D] Amit Chaudhuri

- ✓ The book "Gandhi: The Writer" was authored by Bhabhani Bhattacharya, who wrote social-realist fiction.
- ✓ He is described as belonging to the social realism school of Indo-Anglian literature. His writings exhibit the influence of Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi.
- ✓ Unlike other social realists like Premchand, Bhattacharya adopted a pedagogical approach to making novels out of ideas, utilizing satire and making his ideas more tangible through situational examples.

10. Which airport has been designated as the India's best aviation hub by the Skytrax World Airport Awards 2019?

- [A] Kempegowda International Airport
 - [B] **Indira Gandhi International Airport**
 - [C] Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport
 - [D] Rajiv Gandhi International Airport
- ✓ According to the Skytrax World Airport Awards, New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport has been designated as the best Indian airport but ranks 59th globally.
 - ✓ The other Indian airports in the list were Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport at 64, the Rajiv Gandhi Hyderabad International Airport at 66, and Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport at 69.
 - ✓ The list has been compiled by the UK-based Skytrax, a consultancy firm which runs an airline and airport review and ranking site, featuring 100 airports.
 - ✓ Singapore's Changi Airport has been crowned the world's best aviation hub for the seventh time in a row.
 - ✓ At number two on the list is Tokyo International Airport (Haneda). This hub also won World's Best Domestic Airport and World's Cleanest Airport.

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1. Who has been conferred with 2019 Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Award (PBSA)?

- [A] Prathap C. Reddy
 [B] Ramesh Mehta
 [C] **Rajendra Joshi**
 [D] Kamal Karanth

- ✓ Swiss-based NRI scientist Dr Rajendra Joshi, who belongs to Rajasthan, has been conferred with the 2019 Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Award (PBSA) by the President of India Ram Nath Kovind.
- ✓ Dr Joshi is honoured for his outstanding achievement in the field of Science and in recognition of his valuable contribution in promoting the honour and prestige of India and in fostering the interests of Overseas Indians.
- ✓ He is mainly credited with developing path-breaking medicine Tecfidera (BG12) for multiple sclerosis. The theme of 2019 Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention was 'Role of Indian Diaspora in building New India.'

2. Who has been elected as the first female President of Slovakia?

- [A] Adriana Karembeu
 [B] **Zuzana Caputova**
 [C] Kristina Farkasova
 [D] Apollonia Vanova

- ✓ Zuzana Caputova, a liberal environmental activist and a political newcomer, has been elected as the first female President of Slovakia.
- ✓ She framed the election as a struggle between good and evil. With 58% of the vote, Caputova edged out European Commission Vice President Maros Sefcovic, a diplomat backed by the county's governing Smer-Social Democracy party.
- ✓ She is set to take office on June 15, after the tenure of incumbent Slovak President Andrej Kiska finishes.

3. Who has won the men's singles title at the 2019 Miami Open tennis tournament?

- [A] **Roger Federer**
 [B] John Isner
 [C] Novak Djokovic

[D] Kei Nishikori

- ✓ In tennis, Roger Federer lifted his fourth ATP Miami Open title with an emphatic 6-1, 6-4 win over defending champion John Isner on 31st March 2019 at the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, States.
- ✓ It is Swiss player's 28th Masters title and the 101st overall for a player who has won 20 Grand Slam singles titles.

4. ISRO has successfully launched EMISAT and 28 customer satellites by which launch vehicle?

- [A] PSLV-C44
 [B] PSLV-C46
 [C] PSLV-C47
 [D] **PSLV-C45**

- ✓ On April 1, ISRO has successfully launched India's latest EMISAT defence satellite from the Sriharikota spaceport. In today's mission, the rocket PSLV-C45 flew in a new configuration called "QL".
- ✓ In this configuration, the rocket is fitted with four longer versions of strap-on motors that provide the vehicle the required additional thrust. Earlier, the rocket used to be in "XL" version with six strap-on motors or two or with no strap-on motors known as core alone configuration.
- ✓ The PSLV-C45 successfully injected EMISAT in a 748-km sun-synchronous polar orbit and 28 international customer satellites in a 504-km orbit. Of these, 24 are from the US, two from Lithuania, and one each from Spain and Switzerland.
- ✓ EMISAT is a satellite built around ISRO's Mini Satellite-2 (IMS-2) bus weighing about 436 kg. The satellite is intended for electromagnetic spectrum measurement.

5. Which country's team has won the 2019 Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey tournament?

- [A] Poland
 [B] **South Korea**
 [C] India
 [D] Japan

- ✓ South Korea has won the 2019 Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey tournament. In the final, they defeated five time champion India in a penalty shootout 4-2 at Ipoh in Malaysia on April 1.

- ✓ Till the stipulated time both the teams had a score of 1 goal each. Even India was leading with one goal till half time. Simaranjit Singh hit a goal for India.
- ✓ Jang Jong Hyun scored the goal for South Korea. Hosts Malaysia defeated Canada 4-2 and secured the 3rd place. Asian games Gold medalist Japan stood at 5th place, defeating Poland 6-1.

6. Which of the following shipyards has become the first Indian Shipyard to deliver 100 warships?

[A] Cochin Shipyard

[B] **GRSE**

[C] Mazagon Dock

[D] Goa Shipyard

- ✓ The Garden Reach Ship Builders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE) has become the first Indian shipyard to build and deliver 100 warships to the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard and Mauritius Coast Guard. The 100th Warship "IN LCU L-56" was formally handed over to the Indian Navy.
- ✓ The GRSE is one of India's leading shipyards, located in Kolkata, West Bengal. It builds and repairs commercial and naval vessels. Presently, GRSE has also started building export ships in a mission to expand its business.

7. What is the theme of the 13th edition of Earth Hour 2019?

[A] #GiveBack

[B] #Save Earth

[C] #NatureCallingYou

[D] **#Connect2Earth**

- ✓ The 13th edition of Earth Hour 2019 was observed on March 30 with theme "#Connect2Earth" to encourage people across the world to turn off non-essential electric lights for one hour from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.
- ✓ It calls for greater awareness and more sparing use of resources, especially fossil fuels that produce carbon gases and lead to global warming.
- ✓ On this day, the World Wide Fund (WWF) for Nature-India made an appeal to citizens to join the Earth Hour 2019 to inspire millions across the country to shift to more sustainable practices and minimize negative impacts on the planet.

8. Hump-backed Mahseer, sometimes seen in news, is found in which of the following river basins?

[A] **Cauvery**

[B] Narmada

[C] Ganga

[D] Brahmaputra

- ✓ The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has recently listed Hump-backed Mahseer as Critically Endangered in the Red List of Threatened Species.
- ✓ The scientific name of hump-backed mahseer is 'Tor remadevii', which is named after noted ichthyologist K. Remadevi of the Zoological Survey of India.
- ✓ The giant game fish (also called the tiger of the water) is one of the most iconic and highly-prized freshwater fish found in the Cauvery river basin (including Kerala's Pambar, Kabini and Bhavani rivers). The fish can grow up to a length of 1.5m and weigh up to 55 kg and qualifies as megafauna.
- ✓ Beside this, five other species have also made it to threatened categories: two wild orchids, the Arabian scad (a marine fish) and two wild coffee species found only in a few localities in the Western Ghats. As per latest IUCN update, the great hornbill (found in India and southeast Asia) was earlier categorised as "Near Threatened".
- ✓ It is now "Vulnerable" due to high hunting pressure coupled with habitat loss and deforestation, while the wreathed hornbill has moved from "Least Concern" to "Vulnerable".

9. Which IIT has successfully converted petroleum waste toluene into useful product?

[A] IIT Indore

[B] IIT Kanpur

[C] **IIT Madras**

[D] IIT Bombay

- ✓ Using platinum nanocatalyst, a two-member team at the IIT Madras has successfully converted petroleum waste-product toluene into benzoic acid.
- ✓ Benzoic acid is used as a food preservative (E210) and medicine for fungal/bacterial infection. Toluene is converted into benzoic acid through selective and controlled oxidation in the presence of a catalyst —

binaphthyl-stabilised platinum nanoparticles (Pt-BNP).

- ✓ Generally, organic reactions are carried out using organic solvents, which makes it expensive and also generates toxic waste. So, the team led by G. Sekar used water as solvent to make it environment-friendly. Also, a green oxidant (70% aqueous tert-butyl hydroperoxide or TBHP) is used for converting toluene into benzoic acid. When toluene is oxidised, it gives four products.
- ✓ But, the team used catalyst that they developed and then only benzoic acid is produced. No alcohol, aldehyde or ester is produced. The yield of benzoic acid varied from 68-96% depending on whether the toluene used is electron-deficient or electron-rich.

10. Which of the following districts has become the world's first district with 5G coverage?

- [A] Chaoyang
- [B] Mangalore
- [C] Hongkou
- [D] Kolkata

- ✓ The Hongkou district of Shanghai has recently claimed to have the world's first district with 5G coverage and a broadband gigabit network.
- ✓ It conducted trial runs of the 5G network, backed by telecom services provider China Mobile. Shanghai also aims to build over 10,000 5G base stations by the end of this year and the number of 5G base stations could cross 30,000 in 2021.
- ✓ 5G is the next generation of cellular technology with download speed 10 to 100 times faster than the 4G LTE networks.

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1. Who is the head of the tribunal to review ban imposed on Jamaat-e-Islami & JKLF?

- [A] Puja Mehra
 [B] **Chander Shekhar**
 [C] Rohan Sharma
 [D] Mihir Sen

- ✓ The Government of India (GoI) has constituted a tribunal to adjudicate if there exists sufficient cause to ban the Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu and Kashmir (JeI) and the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front-Yasin Malik (JKLF-Y) faction.
- ✓ The tribunal will be headed by Justice Chander Shekhar of the Delhi High Court. The decision has been taken by the Union Home Ministry exercising the powers conferred under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act of 1967.
- ✓ The JeI and the JKLF-Y were declared as unlawful associations on February 28 and March 22 respectively.

2. Which Indian artist has been chosen as the Glenfiddich's Emerging Artist of the Year 2019?

- [A] **Raju Baraiya**
 [B] Subodh Gupta
 [C] Bharti Kher
 [D] Shilpa Gupta

- ✓ Vadodra-based artist Raju Baraiya has been chosen as the Glenfiddich's Emerging Artist of the Year 2019. He will represent India at the Glenfiddich Artists in Residence (AiR) programme where he will spend three months at the Glenfiddich Distillery in Scotland with artists from around the world.
- ✓ Baraiya will also be awarded Rs 10 lakh, which includes an international allowance of Rs 1,20,000 per month and a work allowance of Rs 5,00,000; besides being given a solo show at Art District XIII Gallery in New Delhi. Baraiya's work takes inspiration from observing and diagnosing the rural in relation to the urban and vice-versa.
- ✓ His practice springs out of this shift from a strong rural background to an urban one. The artist has been deriving imagery from these seemingly

ambiguous notions of the urban and the rural, and the complexities between the two spaces create a common meeting ground for him to explore through an impression he holds of them. With his art, he aims to translate the ever evolving image of this convergence.

3. J Mahendra, who passed away recently, was the veteran filmmaker of which regional cinema?

- [A] **Tamil**
 [B] Telugu
 [C] Malayalam
 [D] Kannada

- ✓ J Mahendra (79), the veteran filmmaker, screenwriter and actor, has passed away in Chennai, Tamil Nadu on 2nd April 2019. He was known for infusing realism in Tamil cinema and for giving superstar Rajinikanth his career breakthrough with "Mullum Malarum".
- ✓ He started his journey in the movies as a screenplay writer and made his directorial debut with 1978 film "Mullum Malarum".
- ✓ The director's popularity peaked with his movies "Uthiri Pookkal" (1979) and "Nenjathai Killathey" (1980). In the past few years, Mahendran had switched to acting. He played pivotal parts in "Kamaraj" (2004), "Petta" opposite Rajinikanth and Vijay's "Theri".
- ✓ He was last seen in Tamil film "Boomerang", which released on March 8. Mahendran was also the founding member of Blue Ocean Film and Television Academy here.

4. Which IIT has tied up with Pullela Gopichand Badminton Academy to develop training module?

- [A] IIT Bombay
 [B] **IIT Kharagpur**
 [C] IIT Delhi
 [D] IIT Madras

- ✓ IIT Kharagpur has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Pullela Gopichand Badminton Academy (PGBA) to develop research and training module for the trainees of the Hyderabad-based sports facility.

- ✓ The thrust area of the collaboration is to promote health and wellbeing of sportspersons and coaches for enhancing the quality of performance and resilience. Players and coaches from PGBA will benefit from these programs. Further, the coaches will also be trained on how to use that knowledge while training players.
- ✓ Under the collaboration, IIT-KGP will also set up a sports academy in collaboration with Gopichand. The academy would promote collaborative research related to happiness in sports in general and badminton in particular, and science and technology in sports training.
- ✓ The scope would also include joint monitoring and use of materials used in general and badminton in particular by IIT Kharagpur and PGBA. A sum of Rs10 crore has been allocated to develop modern sports facilities at IIT-Kgp.

5. Who has won the men's singles title at the 2019 Yonex-Sunrise India Open badminton tournament?

- [A] Manu Attri
- [B] B Sumeeth Reddy
- [C] Kidambi Srikanth
- [D] **Viktor Axelsen**

- ✓ Former world champion, Viktor Axelsen of Denmark has won the men's singles title at the 2019 Yonex-Sunrise India Open badminton tournament on March 31. In the final, he defeated Kidambi Srikanth by 7-21, 20-22 in New Delhi.
- ✓ This was Srikanth's fourth defeat to Axelsen in five encounters since March 2017. And also, it was Srikanth's first final in a BWF world tour event in 17 months. He had last won a title at the 2017 French Open.

6. Which country has successfully launched second generation data relay Tianlian II-01 satellite?

- [A] **China**
- [B] Japan
- [C] South Korea
- [D] India

- ✓ China has successfully launched the first of its new-generation 'Tianlian II-01' data relay satellite into orbit by a Long March-3B carrier rocket from the

Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwest Sichuan Province.

- ✓ This is the first of China's second-generation data-tracking and relay satellites. It will provide services like data relay, measurement and control, and transmission to manned spacecraft, satellites, carrier rockets and non-spacecraft users.
- ✓ The Tianlian II network will be markedly more advanced in mission planning, system management and operations than the first-generation network composed of Tianlian I satellites. The satellite is developed by the China Academy of Space Technology under the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation.

7. What is the theme of the 2019 World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD)?

- [A] Toward Autonomy and Self-Determination
- [B] **Assistive Technologies, Active Participation**
- [C] Employment: The Autism Advantage
- [D] Opening Doors to Inclusive Education

- ✓ The World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) is observed every year to raise public awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Autism is a brain disorder that typically affects a person's ability to communicate with others.
- ✓ It generally begins in childhood and last through adulthood. The day highlights the need to help and improve the quality of life of those with autism so that they can lead full and meaningful lives as an integral part of society.
- ✓ The 2019 theme "Assistive Technologies, Active Participation" , underscores the importance of affordable assistive technologies to support people with autism to live independent lives and, indeed, to exercise their basic human rights.

8. Which fictional superhero will be the first entrant into Comic-Con Museum's Character Hall of Fame?

- [A] Superman
- [B] Spider-man
- [C] **Batman**
- [D] Iron Man

- ✓ Batman will be first inductee into the Comic-Con Museum's Character Hall of Fame. The honor was

announced during the "Happy Birthday Batman!" panel at WonderCon on March 30, when Batman turned 80.

- ✓ The ceremony will take place at the Federal Building in San Diego's Balboa Park — which is the future site of the Comic-Con Museum, on 17th July 2019.
- ✓ The ceremony will be accompanied by an exhibit of Batman-themed memorabilia and related props and will feature appearances by celebrities and creators whose careers have interacted with the Dark Knight across the years.
- ✓ Batman first appeared in the 'Detective Comics No. 27' published on March 30, 1939, created by Bob Kane and Bill Finger.

of Kandhamal population) are engaged in growing the variety.

- ✓ Apart from domestic use, turmeric is also used for cosmetic and medicinal purposes. A GI is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.

9. Who has won the 2019 Formula 1 Bahrain Grand Prix tournament?

- [A] Valtteri Bottas
- [B] Sebastian Vettel
- [C] Charles Leclerc
- [D] Lewis Hamilton**

- ✓ Lewis Hamilton, a British racing driver, has won the 2019 Formula 1 Bahrain Grand Prix tournament after an engine problem hit runaway leader Charles Leclerc's Ferrari late in the race.

10. Kandhamal Haldi, which recently got GI tag, is produce in which of the following states?

- [A] Odisha**
- [B] West Bengal
- [C] Jharkhand
- [D] Assam

- ✓ Kandhamal Haldi, a variety of turmeric indigenous to southern Odisha, has finally got the Geographical indication (GI) tag from Intellectual Property India. The recognition coincided with the state's Foundation Day (Utkal Divas).
- ✓ Odisha, on April 1 1936, was carved out as a separate state in the then British India on a linguistic identity. The golden yellow spice is named after the district where it is produced & has been cultivated since time immemorial and is known for its medicinal value.
- ✓ Turmeric is the main cash crop of tribal people in Kandhamal. More than 60,000 families (nearly 50%

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1. The researchers of which country has showed that dark matter is not made up of tiny black holes?

- [A] India
- [B] United States
- [C] China
- [D] Japan

- ✓ Researchers led by Kavli Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe in Japan has put a theory speculated by the late Stephen Hawking to its most rigorous test to date, and their results have ruled out the possibility that primordial black holes smaller than a tenth of a millimeter make up most of dark matter.
- ✓ They used the gravitational lensing effect to look for primordial black holes between Earth and the Andromeda galaxy. However, gravitational lensing effects are very rare events because it requires a star in the Andromeda galaxy, a primordial black hole acting as the gravitational lens, and an observer on Earth to be exactly in line with one another.
- ✓ In order to maximise the chances of capturing an event, the researchers used the Hyper Suprime-Cam digital camera on the Subaru telescope in Hawaii, which can capture the whole image of the Andromeda galaxy in one shot.
- ✓ Taking into account how fast primordial black holes are expected to move in interstellar space, the team took multiple images to be able to catch the flicker of a star as it brightens for a period of a few minutes to hours due to gravitational lensing.
- ✓ The team's results showed primordial black holes can contribute no more than 0.1% of all dark matter mass. Therefore, it is unlikely the theory is true.

2. India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development (IAIARD) will be set up in which of the following countries?

- [A] Seychelles
- [B] Malawi
- [C] South Africa
- [D] Djibouti

- ✓ India has recently signed an agreement with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Consultancy Service (NABCONS) for setting up India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development (IAIARD) in Malawi.
- ✓ The agreement is a part of India's efforts to enhance capacity in the areas of agro-financing and entrepreneurship development for African countries. IAIARD will be a Pan-African Institute wherein trainees not only from Malawi but also from other African countries, will receive training to develop their human resources and build their capacity.
- ✓ The entire expenditure on faculty from India, the travel, logistics and training course expenses for students from other African countries will be borne by the Government of India (GoI) for an initial period of 3 years.
- ✓ This institute will be the first of its kind developed in an African country by India. This will further strengthen the bilateral relations with Malawi and India's relations with African Union.

3. Which country has decided to launch world's first national 5G networks?

- [A] South Korea
- [B] Japan
- [C] China
- [D] France

- ✓ South Korea will launch the world's first fully-fledged 5G mobile networks on 5th April 2019. Hyper-wired South Korea has a reputation for technical prowess, and Seoul has made the 5G rollout a priority as it seeks to stimulate stuttering economic growth.
- ✓ The superfast communications heralded by fifth-generation wireless technology will bring smartphones near-instantaneous connectivity - 20 times faster than the existing 4G.
- ✓ It is crucial for the future development of devices ranging from self-driving vehicles that send data traffic to one another in real time, industrial robots, drones and other elements of the Internet of Things.
- ✓ 5G's hyper speed can connect one million devices within a one square kilometre zone simultaneously.

Until now, no mobile networks have offered nationwide 5G access.

- ✓ Japan is expected to roll out a limited deployment in 2019 before full services start in time for 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

4. MH-60R Seahawk helicopters, sometimes seen in news, is associated to which of the following countries?

- [A] Russia
- [B] France
- [C] Germany
- [D] United States**

- ✓ The United States has approved the sale of 24 multi-role MH-60 Romeo Seahawk helicopters to India under its Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program at an estimated cost of \$2.4 billion. The multi-mission helicopters can detect, track and attack submarines and surface ships at sea.
- ✓ They are designed to operate from frigates, destroyers, cruisers and aircraft carriers. Thus, these are considered the world's most advanced maritime helicopters.
- ✓ The choppers will provide the Indian defence forces with the capability to perform anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare missions along with the ability to perform secondary missions including vertical replenishment, search and rescue, and communications relay. Hence, the Lockheed Martin-built helicopters would replace India's aging fleet of British-made Sea King helicopters.
- ✓ The proposed sale will support US foreign policy & national security by helping to strengthen the US-Indian strategic relationship and to improve the security of a major defensive partner.

5. Who is the author of the book "Kundan: Saigal's Life & Music"?

- [A] Kanika Kapoor
- [B] Sharad Dutt**
- [C] Akriti Kakar
- [D] Khushi

- ✓ The book titled "Kundan: Saigal's Life & Music" has been penned by Sharad Dutt, documentary filmmaker and former DDG of Doordarshan.

- ✓ The genius of legendary singer K L Saigal, his timeless compositions and the golden era of Indian cinema have been brought alive in a book.
- ✓ The book has been trans-created in English by Jyoti Sabharwal of Stellar Publishers and will be released on April 4, the 115th birth anniversary of Saigal.
- ✓ Some of Saigal's all time hits are 'Jab dil hi toot gaya', 'Ek bangla bane nyara', 'Dukhake din aab bitat nahin', 'Duniyamen hun duniyaka talabgaar nahin hun' and 'So ja rajkumari so ja'.

6. The UK researchers have used which telescope to determine that Sun's magnetic field is 10 times stronger than thought?

- [A] Snow Solar Telescope
- [B] 1m Solar Telescope**
- [C] Waypoint-1 Space Telescope
- [D] Hubble Space Telescope

- ✓ According to a new collaborative study by the Queen's University Belfast and Aberystwyth University in the UK, the sun's magnetic field is ten times stronger than previously thought.
- ✓ Using the Swedish one-metre Solar Telescope at Roque de los Muchachos Observatory, in the Canary Islands, David Kuridze studied a particularly strong solar flare which erupted near the surface of the Sun on September 10, 2017.
- ✓ A combination of favourable conditions and an element of luck enabled the team to determine the strength of the flare's magnetic field with unprecedented accuracy. The researchers believe the findings have the potential to change our understanding of the processes that happen in the Sun's immediate atmosphere.
- ✓ The study found that the sun's corona extends millions of kilometres above the surface, measuring 1,400,000 kilometres across -- 109 times larger than Earth -- and 150,000,000 km from Earth.
- ✓ Solar flares appear as bright flashes and occur when magnetic energy that has built up in the solar atmosphere is suddenly released. These solar flares can lead to storms which, if they hit Earth, form the northern lights -- the Aurora Borealis. They can also disrupt communications satellites and GPS systems.

7. Which South American nation has recently joined International Solar Alliance (ISA)?

- [A] Ecuador
- [B] Colombia
- [C] Uruguay
- [D] **Bolivia**

- ✓ On March 28, President Ram Nath Kovind became the first-ever Indian President to visit Bolivia. Here, President Evo Morales Ayma conferred the highest State Honour of Bolivia - Condor de los Andes en el Grado de Gran Collar - on President Kovind.
- ✓ Both the countries have agreed to facilitate Bolivian supplies of lithium Carbonate to India and foster joint ventures for Lithium battery / cell production plants in India. This move will make Bolivia, which is known to have one-fourth of the world's lithium reserves, one of the major provider of metal for India's e-mobility and e-storage needs.
- ✓ To mark the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, India offered two busts of Gandhiji to Bolivia. The Bolivian side accepted the offer and is likely to place the busts in its capital La Paz and its largest city Santa Cruz.
- ✓ This South American nation has also joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) by signing the framework agreement on ISA. In a total, India and Bolivia have signed 8 MoUs in various fields of mining, space, traditional medicine during President's Kovind three day visit to the country.

8. Which Indian psychiatrist has won the 2019 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award?

- [A] Shekhar Saxena
- [B] Anirudh Kala
- [C] **Vikram Patel**
- [D] P B Buckshey

- ✓ Prof. Vikram Patel, a psychiatrist and professor of global health at Harvard Medical School, has won the prestigious 2019 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award.
- ✓ Mr. Patel has led research generating knowledge on the burden and determinants of mental health problems in low and middle-income countries and pioneered approaches which utilise community

resources for the prevention and treatment of mental health problems in India with global impact.

- ✓ Laureates receive a \$100,000 cash honorarium and will be formally presented with their awards on October 24, 2019 at the annual Canada Gairdner Awards Gala in Toronto.

9. Café Scientifique, sometimes seen in news, is a public science initiative of which state?

- [A] **Kerala**
- [B] Andhra Pradesh
- [C] Tamil Nadu
- [D] Karnataka

- ✓ In Kerala, the group of science experts of the Hume Centre for Ecology and Wildlife Biology has decided to launch 'Café Scientifique' to promote science among public in an interesting way.
- ✓ It is the first such initiative in the state to popularise the subject. It envisages to bring science back into popular culture by demystifying scientific research for the public and empowering non-scientists to comfortably assess science and technology issues, particularly those that impact social policy making.
- ✓ The project is also aimed at making science relevant, powerful and important to the public, especially the younger generations. Here, various topics such as universe, climate change, evolution, genetics and human-animal relations will be discussed in every monthly gathering.
- ✓ It is a grassroots public science initiative based on the French Café Philosophique model.

10. Which state has been ranked first in e-learning training programme of Department of Personal and Training (DoPT) of the Government India?

- [A] Assam
- [B] **Telangana**
- [C] Uttar Pradesh
- [D] Tamil Nadu

- ✓ For the second successive year, Telangana has been ranked first in e-learning training programme of Department of Personal and Training (DoPT) of the Government India.
- ✓ In FY 2018-19, Dr. MCR HRD Institute had enrolled over 20,000 field staff in different districts of the

State to impart training on 12 soft skill modules and three domain-specific modules on the RTI, office procedures, and finance and accounts, apart from Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- ✓ The institute is also mentoring Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, J&K, Odisha, Uttarakhand, and Gujarat to guide trainers for e-learning training programme and develop modules in regional languages to spread the Comprehensive Online Modified Modules on Induction Training (COMMIT) programme as a national mission.

Winmeen Current Affairs

1. Which Indian personality has been conferred the UAE's highest civilian honour 'Zayed Medal'?

- [A] Sania Mirza
 [B] Shahrukh Khan
 [C] **Narendra Modi**
 [D] Shashi Tharoor
- ✓ UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan has conferred the prestigious Zayed Medal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for giving a "big boost" to bilateral strategic ties between the two countries.
 - ✓ The award comes in appreciation of PM Modi's role in consolidating the long-standing friendship and joint strategic cooperation between the two countries. The Zayed Medal is the highest decoration awarded to kings, presidents and heads of states.

2. What is the current repo rate, as per RBI's first bi-monthly policy of FY20?

- [A] 6.50%
 [B] **6.00%**
 [C] 6.25%
 [D] 7.2%
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cut its repo rate under Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) by 25 basis points to 6.0% in its first bi-monthly policy statement of the current financial year FY20, with immediate effect. The move will cheer markets and investors and is the second consecutive rate cut by the RBI.
 - ✓ It has also maintained the policy stance neutral and lowered the retail inflation and GDP forecasts. This is the second consecutive rate cut from RBI under new Governor Shaktikanta Das, after a rate cut in February 2019.
 - ✓ Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF stands adjusted to 5.75%, and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 6.25%.
 - ✓ These decisions are in consonance with the objective of achieving the medium-term target for consumer price index (CPI) inflation of 4% within a band of plus or minus 2% while supporting growth.

3. What is the India's GDP growth forecast for FY20, according to the Asian Development Outlook 2019?

- [A] 7.1%
 [B] 7.3%
 [C] **7.2%**
 [D] 7.4%
- ✓ Asian Development Bank (ADB) has recently released its flagship publication Asian Development Outlook 2019. In its report, ADB has lowered India's growth by 40 basis points to 7.2% in fiscal year 2019-20.
 - ✓ Still, it will be fastest growing economy in the world. The report mentioned that recent policy measures by the Government of India (GoI) to improve the investment climate and boost private consumption and investment will help India to lift economic growth in the next two fiscal years.
 - ✓ The growth rate in FY 2020-21 is likely to be 7.3%. India's growth slowed from 7.2% in fiscal 2017 to 7% in 2018, with weaker agricultural output and consumption growth curtailed by higher global oil prices and lower government expenditure.
 - ✓ The report added that sub-region wise, southeast Asia will sustain growth at close to 5% this year and the next one.

4. Who has become the first African-American female mayor in the history of Chicago?

- [A] **Lori Lightfoot**
 [B] Muriel Bowser
 [C] Lovely Warren
 [D] Toni Harp
- ✓ Chicago has created history by electing an African-American woman as its mayor for the first time. Lori Lightfoot is a former federal prosecutor and practicing lawyer who has never before held elected office. She won the city's mayoral race by a huge margin. She will also be Chicago's first openly gay mayor.
 - ✓ Lightfoot's primary proposals include increasing access to affordable housing, creating an office of public safety to reduce crime and reform policing, and pushing through a real estate transfer tax to help combat homelessness.
 - ✓ She also backs abolishing US Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Lightfoot will take over office from Mayor Rahm Emanuel, who previously served

as chief of staff under former President Barack Obama.

5. Which Southeast Asian country has recently introduced harsh new sharia laws that make adultery and homosexuality punishable by stoning to death?

- [A] Indonesia
- [B] Cambodia
- [C] Brunei
- [D] Malaysia

- ✓ Brunei has recently introduced harsh new Islamic laws that make adultery and homosexuality punishable by stoning to death.
- ✓ The new measures also cover a range of other crimes, including punishment for theft by amputation. The move makes Brunei the first place in Southeast Asia to have a sharia penal code at the national level. The new law mostly applies to Muslims, though some aspects will also apply to non-Muslims.
- ✓ It stipulates the death penalty for a number of offences, including rape, adultery, sodomy, robbery and insulting or defaming the Prophet Muhammad.
- ✓ It also introduces public flogging as punishment for abortion and criminalises exposing Muslim children to the beliefs and practices of any religion other than Islam.

6. Maitri bridge, which is in news recently, is build over which of the following rivers?

- [A] Indus
- [B] Ravi
- [C] Satluj
- [D] Jhelum

- ✓ The Indian Army has constructed the 260 feet long cable-suspension bridge 'Maitri Bridge' over Indus river at Choglamsar village in Leh in a record time of 40 days.
- ✓ It is the longest suspension bridge over the river and is built by combat engineers of the 'Sahas aur Yogyata' regiment of the Indian Army's 'Fire and Fury Corps'.
- ✓ The name of the bridge, "Maitri", is meant to symbolise the amity and solidarity between soldiers and locals.

- ✓ The bridge is expected to improve connectivity in remote regions of Leh and Ladakh. It will connect the remote areas of Choglamsar, Stok and Chuchot, which are said to be the largest villages in the region.

7. On which date, the 2019 International Mine Awareness Day is observed recently?

- [A] April 5
- [B] April 4
- [C] April 3
- [D] April 2

- ✓ The International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action is observed every year on April 4 to raise awareness about landmines, explosive remnants of war, and progress toward their eradication.
- ✓ The 2019 Theme is "United Nations Promotes SDGs – Safe Ground – Safe Home".

8. State of the Global Air 2019 report, which is in news recently, is released by which country's health institute?

- [A] United States
- [B] United Kingdom
- [C] Germany
- [D] France

- ✓ The State of the Global Air 2019 report has recently released by the Boston-based Health Effects Institute (HEI). The report revealed that 1.2 million Indians lost their lives due to exposure to unsafe air in 2017. Now, in India, air pollution is the third-highest cause of death among all health risks, ranking just above smoking.
- ✓ This is a combined effect of outdoor fine particles PM2.5, ozone and household (indoor) air pollution. In 2017, exposure to PM 2.5 pollution was found to be the third leading risk factor globally for Type 2 diabetes-related deaths and disability after high blood sugar and excessive body weight.
- ✓ Due to this combined exposure South Asians including Indians are dying early — their life expectancy has reduced by over 2.6 years. In India, early deaths are linked to respiratory diseases, heart disease, stroke, lung cancer, and diabetes that are influenced by air pollution.

9. The NuGen Mobility Summit 2019 will be held in which of the following countries?

[A] India

[B] China

[C] Japan

[D] South Korea

- ✓ In India, the NuGen Mobility Summit 2019 will be organized by the International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) at Manesar, NCR, from 27th to 29th November 2019.
- ✓ The purpose of the Summit is to share new ideas, learnings, global experiences, innovations and future technology trends for faster adoption, assimilation and development of advanced automotive technologies for a smarter and greener future.
- ✓ This event will help in building a platform for bringing together all stakeholders in the automotive industry to understand global advancements in technologies. More than 2500 participants and over 250 exhibitors are expected to take part in the Summit.

10. Phayeng Village, which has been tagged as India's first carbon-positive settlement, is located in which of the following states?

[A] Mizoram

[B] Nagaland

[C] Manipur

[D] Odisha

- ✓ Phayeng Village of Manipur has been tagged as the India's first carbon-positive settlement. As part of the carbon-positive village project, Phayeng will receive a grant of Rs10 crore in phases to facilitate afforestation in the catchment of river Maklang that flows along the village.
- ✓ The fund will also be utilised for creation of water bodies, introduction of climate change-resilient varieties of crops, installing solar lights, for setting up a community piggery and poultry farm, an eco-resort, replacing firewood in kitchen with cooking stoves and an indigenous knowledge centre in the village.

- ✓ A village is given the Carbon-Positive Tag if it sequesters more carbon than it emits, slowing the accumulation of greenhouse gases and mitigating the effects of climate change.
- ✓ Phayeng is a scheduled caste village of the Chakpa community in Imphal West district and its conservation efforts are mainly linked to the belief that the forest is a sacred grove.
- ✓ It is surrounded by three densely forested hillocks with fruit trees at centre and a stream flowing through it.

Winmeen Current Affairs

1. Who has become the 1st Indian to be elected as member of FIFA Executive Council?

- [A] Bhaichung Bhutia
- [B] Subrata Pal
- [C] Anirudh Thapa
- [D] Praful Patel

- ✓ Praful Patel, the president of All India Football Federation (AIFF), has become the first Indian to be elected as a member of the FIFA Executive Council.
- ✓ He got 38 out of 46 votes. Mr Patel was one of the eight candidates vying for the spot in the election which was held during the 29th Asian Football Confederations Congress in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. The membership in the council will be for four years, from 2019 to 2023.

2. Who has been elected as the new President of the World Bank?

- [A] David Malpass
- [B] Christopher Kilby
- [C] Christine Lagarde
- [D] Mauricio Macri

- ✓ David Malpass, a top US Treasury official in Trump administration, was unanimously selected as the new President of the World Bank for a period of five-years.
- ✓ The World Bank President is Chair of Boards of Directors of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and International Development Association (IDA). The President is also ex officio Chair of Boards of Directors of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), and the Administrative Council of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).
- ✓ Malpass has served on the boards of the Council of the Americas, Economic Club of New York, and the National Committee on US-China Relations.

3. The festival 'Jashn-e-Ittihaad' has recently held in which of the following cities?

- [A] Pune
- [B] Hyderabad
- [C] New Delhi
- [D] Lucknow

- ✓ A music and poetry festival titled 'Jashn-e-Ittihaad' was held at the Jamia Milia Islamia central university in New Delhi on April 6, 2019. The fest is one of a kind event where people will get to enjoy soulful Hindi and Urdu poetry, music and performances that will not only make them feel good but will also spread awareness about unity and integrity.
- ✓ The musical evening opened with the national anthem and a dance performance by young artistes Yuvraaj Katiyal and Mahira Katyal, followed by a performance by Irshad Kamil and his band -- The Ink Band.
- ✓ Mushaira by noted poets like Munawwar Rana, Waseem Bareilvi, Shakeel Jamali, Iqbal Ashhar, and Madan Mohan Danish among others brought the evening to an end. The day-long was organised by Delhi-based entertainment company Question Associates Pvt Ltd.

4. C R Anandavally, who passed away recently, was the well-known dubbing artist of which regional cinema?

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

- ✓ C R Anandavally (67), the well-known dubbing artist in the Malayalam film industry, has passed away on April 5, 2019. She began her film career doing small roles in various Malayalam films beginning with "Eanippadikkal" in 1973 and lent her voice to actress Rajasri in the film "Devi Kanyakumari" in 1974.
- ✓ The 1980 movie 'Manjil Virinja Pookkal' in which she dubbed for actress Poornima Jayaram became a turning point in her career and she was flooded with offers and had been active since then. Among the leading heroines she has lent her voice are Geetha, 'Silk' Smitha, Sumalatha, Madhavi, Menaka, Ambika, Urvashi, Jayapradha, Karthika, Parvathy, Gauthami, Suhasini, Sobhana, Revathi, Nanditha Bose and Khushboo.

- ✓ Anandavally won a Kerala State Award for the Malayalam film 'Aadharam' in which she dubbed for actress Geetha. Hailing from Kollam, Anandavally had also acted in Kerala Peoples Arts Club (KPAC) dramas.

5. Project-75 India, sometimes seen in news, is associated with which Indian armed force?

- [A] Indian Air Force
- [B] Indian Army
- [C] Indian Navy
- [D] Indian Coast Guard

- ✓ To counter growing Chinese footprint in Indian ocean region, the Indian Navy has initiated the process to acquire six lethal submarines under the ambitious Project-75 India (I).
- ✓ The project would cost Rs 50,000 crore. Under Project 75-India, the Navy wants to build six conventional diesel-electric submarines which would be almost 50% bigger than the under-construction Scorpene class submarines being built at the Mazagon Dockyards Limited in Mumbai.
- ✓ As per the requirements stated by the maritime force, it wants the submarines to be equipped with heavy-duty firepower as it wants the boats to have at least 12 Land Attack Cruise Missiles (LACM) along with Anti-Ship cruise missiles (ASCM).

6. Which Indian personality has been conferred an honorary doctorate in Philanthropy by The University of Law, London?

- [A] Shah Rukh Khan
- [B] Narendra Modi
- [C] Sushma Swaraj
- [D] Ratan Tata

- ✓ The Badshah of Bollywood, Shah Rukh Khan has been conferred with Honorary Doctorate from University of Law, London. Earlier, he received two honorary doctorates from The University of Edinburgh and The University of Bedfordshire. Over the years, he has established himself as a successful actor, film producer, television host, philanthropist and an entrepreneur.
- ✓ He has lent support to the Indian government's campaigns, including Pulse Polio and National Aids

Control Organization. He has worked closely with several charitable foundations, including the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

- ✓ Besides being an entrepreneur, Shahrukh has forayed into the field of sports with his IPL team Kolkata Knight Riders, aids acid attack survivors through his non-profit organisation Meer Foundation. At the World Economic Forum 2018 held in Davos, he was honoured with the Crystal Award.

7. Who is the new President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)?

- [A] Pradeep Mathur
- [B] Vikram Kirloskar
- [C] V. Ramgopal Rao
- [D] Monica Katiyar

- ✓ Vikram Kirloskar, the CMD of Kirloskar Systems Ltd, has taken charge as the new President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- ✓ He succeeded Rakesh Bharti Mittal, Vice Chairman of Bharti Enterprises. Uday Kotak, the founder and MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank, is the President-Designate and T.V. Narendran, the CEO & MD of Tata Steel, is the Vice President for 2019-20.

8. Exercise Western Shield, which is in news recently, will be conducted by which of the following countries?

- [A] Malaysia
- [B] Australia
- [C] Sri Lanka
- [D] China

- ✓ The Sri Lankan army has decided to conduct its largest ever military exercise titled 'Exercise Western Shield' in July 2019 to provide an opportunity for army trainees to march through areas that are not usually accessible to others, except forest conservation authorities.
- ✓ It will see participation of over 5,000 soldiers and will extend from Mannar to Puttalam, including Kalpitiya, Wilpattu National Park, Mavillu and Thabowwa Forest Reserves and the Western coastal belt. The exercise is coincided with 10 years since the end of the island's 30-year civil conflict between government troops and Tamil Tiger rebels.

9. Who is the author of the book "Saffron Swords: Centuries of Indic Resistance to Invaders"?

- [A] Pankaj Mishra
- [B] Ravi Subramanian
- [C] Anand Neelakantan
- [D] **Manoshi Sinha Rawal**

- ✓ The book titled "Saffron Swords- Centuries of Indic Resistance to Invaders" has been authored by Manoshi Sinha Rawal. It has been launched by India's homegrown startup publishing houses - Garuda Prakashan Private Limited.
- ✓ It is a book on 52 unsung warriors of India from the last 1300 years. It celebrates the glory of our ancestors who offered stiff resistance, won battles and fought till their last breath against Islamic invaders and British.

10. Kartik Chandra Rath, who passed away recently, was the noted theatre personality of which state?

- [A] **Odisha**
- [B] Jharkhand
- [C] Assam
- [D] West Bengal

- ✓ Kartik Chandra Rath (70), an eminent theatre organiser and playwright, has passed away in Cuttack , Odisha on April 1, 2019. He wrote a play called "Aie Desa, Aie mati" at the young age of 15 and then never looked back in his artistic journey.
- ✓ His play "Bhagwan Jane Manisha" staged at the National Theatre festival in Allahabad way back in 1980s gave him an opening as a dramatist from where he scripted a passionate career as a dramatist. Recipient of Kendra Sangeet Natak Akademi award and Odishi Sangeet Natak Akademi award, Rath has penned over hundred plays and directed over 500 plays in his career as a dramatist.
- ✓ He is known for organising the international theatre festival in Cuttack for more than 20 years. He won the prestigious literary award for his One Act Play 'Nisang Bisarga'.
- ✓ "Mansara Phula" is his another widely acclaimed play, which was staged at various theatre festivals across the country.