

World Wetlands Day

2 February 2019

Wetlands and climate change



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Current Affairs



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1. Which international organization has officially launched the International Year of the Period Table of Chemical Elements (IYPT-2019)?

[A] UNESCO

[B] UNIDO

[C] FAO

[D] ITU

- ✓ On January 29, UNESCO official launched the International Year of the Period Table of Chemical Elements (IYPT-2019) at its headquarters in Paris to raise awareness of chemistry and its applications for sustainable development.
- ✓ The year 2019 also marks the 150th anniversary of its creation by Russian scientist Dmitry Ivanovich Mendeleev. The aim of the year-long celebration is to recognize the importance of the periodic table as one of the most important and influential achievements in modern science, reflecting the essence not only of chemistry, but also of physics, biology and other basic sciences disciplines.
- ✓ The Periodic Table of Chemical Elements is a unique tool that enables scientist to predict the appearance and properties of matter on the Earth and in the rest of the Universe.

2. Who has been elected as the new chairman of Broadcast Audience Research Council of India (BARC)?

[A] Nakul Chopra

[B] Partho Dasgupta

[C] Punit Goenka

[D] Milan Sharma

- ✓ Punit Goenka, MD and CEO of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEEL), has been elected as the new chairman of Broadcast Audience Research Council of India (BARC).
- ✓ He succeeded Nakul Chopra. It may be recalled that Goenka was the founder chairman of BARC India and played an instrumental role in setting up of the TV Viewership measurement company. It was under

his leadership that BARC India established its measurement system.

- ✓ BARC India is a joint industry company founded by stakeholder bodies that represent Broadcasters, Advertisers and Advertising & Media Agencies. Its headquarters is located in Mumbai.

3. Which of the following countries have launched a common digital currency "Aber"?

[A] Germany and France

[B] Japan and South Korea

[C] China and North Korea

[D] UAE and Saudi Arabia

- ✓ The central banks of the UAE and Saudi Arabia have launched a common digital currency called "Aber", which will be used in financial settlements between the two countries through Blockchains and Distributed Ledgers technologies.
- ✓ It will establish an additional means for the central financial transfer systems of the two countries and enable banks to directly deal with each other in conducting financial remittances.
- ✓ Through this digital currency, both the United Arab Emirates Central Bank (UAEGB) and the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority (SAMA) are studying the impact on the improvement and reduction of remittance costs and the assessments of risks.

4. The Africa Centre for Climate and Sustainable Development has recently launched in which of the following countries?

[A] South Africa

[B] Italy

[C] Netherlands

[D] Brazil

- ✓ In Rome, Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte has recently launched the new 'Africa Centre for Climate and Sustainable Development' in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and FAO to fight climate change and boost sustainable development in Africa.

- ✓ The centre will provide a fast-track, demand-driven mechanism for African countries to access grant resources that support policies, initiatives, and best practices on climate change, food security, access to water, clean energy, and accelerating progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa. The Africa Centre has its roots in a declaration endorsed by the G7 meeting of the Environment Ministers in 2017.
- ✓ The new centre is established to facilitate coordination among the G7 and African countries on common initiatives in Africa to develop and scale-up innovative solutions for sustainable development, and to achieve the goals set by the 2015 Paris Agreement and the UN's 2030 Agenda.

5. What is the India's rank at the 2018 Corruption Perception Index (CPI) of Transparency International (TI)?

[A] 78th

[B] 81st

[C] 62nd

[D] 54th

Global watchdog Transparency International (TI) has recently released 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), which ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and business people.

The index uses a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean. Here, India has improved its ranking and jumped three positions to 78th with a CPI score of 41 at the 2018 index.

Denmark has topped the index with 88 points, followed by New Zealand (with 87 points) and Finland with 85. Sudan was the worst with a score of 10 points, while Somalia and Syria followed it up with 13 points each.

- ✓ Overall, more than two-thirds of countries score below 50 in the 2018 CPI, with an average score of only 43. The 2018 index revealed that the continued failure of most countries to significantly control corruption is contributing to a crisis in democracy around the world. While there are exceptions, the data shows that despite some progress, most

countries are failing to make serious inroads against corruption.

6. Who has become the fastest Indian bowler to reach 100 ODI wickets?

[A] Yuzvendra Chahal

[B] Kuldeep Yadav

[C] Kedar Jadhav

[D] Mohammed Shami

- ✓ Mohammed Shami has become the fastest Indian bowler to claim 100 ODI wickets, during the first ODI against New Zealand at McLean Park in Napier on 23rd January 2019. Shami reached the milestone in his 56th match, with the wicket of opener Martin Guptill.
- ✓ Before Shami, Irfan Pathan reached the 100-wicket mark in 59 ODIs, while Zaheer Khan (65 matches), Ajit Agarkar (67) and Javagal Srinath (68) are the other Indian bowlers to complete a century of wickets in the quickest time.
- ✓ The world record is currently held by Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan, who took 44 matches to reach the mark and broke the record of 52 matches, set by Mitchell Starc of Australia.

7. India's second Tulip Garden will come up in which of the following states?

[A] Nagaland

[B] Jharkhand

[C] Uttarakhand

[D] Sikkim

- ✓ After Srinagar (J&K), India's second Tulip Garden will come up at Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand over 50 hectares of forest land near Chandak hill top at a cost of Rs 50 crore.
- ✓ The proposed tulip garden will be developed by the ONGC under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme. Tulip is the flower from Holland that blooms from mid March to May.
- ✓ The site in Mad village near Chandak hilltop for the garden has been selected under the state

Government's '13 districts, 13 new destinations' scheme to attract more tourists to the district.

- ✓ According to the project officer of the scheme the land available for the project in Chandak hill top is ideal for the growth of the flower as it is situated at a height of 1,950 metres from the sea surface and remains sunny and cold throughout the year. Tulip is the flower from Holland that blooms from mid March to May.

8. Dara Dotiwalla, who passed away recently, was associated with which sports?

[A] Cricket

[B] Badminton

[C] Tennis

[D] Football

- ✓ Former Indian umpire Dara Dotiwalla (85), who officiated in the famous tied Test match in Chennai between India and Australia in 1986, has passed away in Mumbai on January 30, 2019. Born on 30th October 1933, Dotiwalla had officiated in six Test matches from 1982 to 1987, including the tied Test between India and Australia at the M A Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai.
- ✓ He had also officiated in eight One Day Internationals (ODIs) from 1982 to 1988. He is best remembered for officiating the Chennai Tied Test of 1986 along with V Vikramraju. The match is the only the second tied Test in cricket history, and ended with Vikramraju controversially adjudging India's No. 11 Maninder Singh lbw to Greg Matthews.
- ✓ Dotiwalla's first ODI as an umpire was the fixture between India and Sri Lanka in Bengaluru in 1982, while his last one was India versus New Zealand in 1988 in Cuttack. The Delhi Test between India and West Indies in 1987 was his last assignment as a Test umpire.

9. Which Indian personality has received Carnot Prize for Power Reforms, Rural Electrification?

[A] Mukesh Ambani

[B] Piyush Goyal

[C] Birender Singh Chaudhary

[D] Ratan Tata

- ✓ Union Finance Minister Piyush Goyal has been awarded the Carnot prize for his contribution towards sustainable energy solutions by the team of University of Pennsylvania on January 30.
- ✓ The award recognizes Goyal's tenure as minister of power in which he is credited to have reformed the electricity sector and extended access to electricity to 18,000 villages, as documented by the International Energy Agency (IEA).
- ✓ He was to be awarded the prize by the Kleinman Center for Energy Policy at the University of Pennsylvania School Of Design in October 2018. But, he had to skip the event because of the Amritsar tragedy in which over 60 people died after being mowed down by a train.

10. India's flagship hydrocarbon international conference 'PETROTECH-2019' is scheduled to be held in which of the following cities?

[A] Pune

[B] Kolkata

[C] Greater Noida

[D] Hyderabad

- ✓ The 13th International Oil & Gas Conference & Exhibition 'PETROTECH-2019' is being organised under the aegis of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas in Greater Noida from 10th to 12th February, 2019. India's flagship hydrocarbon international conference is expected to be inaugurated by Prime Minister of India.
- ✓ Over 95 Energy Ministers from partner countries have been invited by the Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas to participate in the Conference. The 3-day mega event will showcase the recent market and investor friendly developments that have taken place in the India's oil and gas sector.
- ✓ It is expected to see participation of over 86 eminent speakers and 7000 delegates from around 70 countries, including technologists, scientists, planners, policy-makers, management experts, entrepreneurs, service-providers and vendors.

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1. Which country's Aerospace Industries has signed \$93 million Naval MRSAM deal with Indian Navy?

[A] South Korea

[B] United States

[C] Israel

[D] Germany

- ✓ Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has recently signed agreements worth \$93 million for providing Naval MRSAM (Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile) systems to India.
- ✓ The contracts for the air defence system were entered with the Indian Navy and the Cochin Shipyard. Under the contracts, IAI will provide complementary systems for the air defense system (ADS).
- ✓ The MRSAM family is an operational air-defense system used by Israel's navy as well as by India's naval, air and ground forces. It provides broad as well as topical defense against a range of assault air, marine and ground threats.
- ✓ MRSAM comprises several key state-of-the-art systems, including a digital radar, command and control, launchers, and interceptors with advanced homing seekers.

2. What is the theme of the 2018 World Leprosy Day (WLD)?

[A] Zero Child Leprosy

[B] Leprosy defeats, Live transform

[C] Zero Disabilities in girls and boys

[D] To live is to help to live

- ✓ The World Leprosy Day (WLD) is observed every year on the last Sunday of January to support those suffering from leprosy and educate those taking care of people suffering from this disease.

- ✓ This year, in 2018, it falls on 28 January and its theme is 'Zero Disabilities in Girls and Boys'. Leprosy is one of the oldest recorded diseases in the world.
- ✓ It is an infectious chronic disease that targets the nervous system, especially the nerves in the cooler parts of the body – the hands, feet, and face.

3. Who is the newly appointed DG of National Cadet Corps (NCC)?

[A] Rajeev Chopra

[B] Neeraj Sharma

[C] P S Bhanubhat

[D] S K Kamath

- ✓ Lt Gen Rajeev Chopra has taken charge as new Director General of National Cadet Corps (NCC) in New Delhi. Commissioned in the Madras Regiment in December 1980, Lt Gen Chopra is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla and Indian Military Academy, Dehradun.
- ✓ The NCC is an Indian military cadet corps with its headquarters at New Delhi, It is the world's largest uniformed youth organization. Its motto is 'Unity and Discipline'.

4. The National Salt Satyagraha Memorial (NSSM) is located in which of the following districts of Gujarat?

[A] Mehsana

[B] Kheda

[C] Bharuch

[D] Navsari

- ✓ On 30th January 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the National Salt Satyagraha Memorial at Dandi in Navsari district, Gujarat to the nation on Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary.
- ✓ At the memorial site, there are statues of Mahatma Gandhi and 80 Satyagrahis who had marched with

him during the historic Dandi Salt March in 1930 to make salt from sea water against the British law.

- ✓ The memorial also has 24-narrative murals depicting various events and stories from the historic 1930 Salt March. Solar trees are installed to meet the energy requirements of the memorial complex.
- ✓ The memorial project of the Union Ministry of Culture is advised by a High Level Dandi Memorial Committee (HLDMC), and is designed, coordinated and implemented by IIT Bombay in association with an international design team.

5. The 2019 International conference on Guru Padmasambhava was held in which of the following cities?

[A] Gorakhpur

[B] New Delhi

[C] Dharamshala

[D] Sanchi

- ✓ On January 29, the 2-day International conference on 8th century Himalayan sage Guru Padmasambhava was held in New Delhi that saw the participation of distinguished scholars from both countries. The conference titled 'Life and Legacy of Guru Padmasambhava', was organized by the Centre for Escalation of Peace (CEP).
- ✓ Scholars from both countries discussed the Guru who was born in India and moved towards Bhutan in the 8th century to spread Buddhism and Buddhist teachings all across the Himalayan region.
- ✓ The conference was dedicated to the 50 years of diplomatic relations between India and Bhutan. In Tibetan Buddhism, Guru Padmasambhava is generally referred to as Guru Rinpoche, which means "precious master." Guru Rinpoche is a totally enlightened being, a fully awakened one, a buddha.

6. ISRO has launched Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC) in which of the following cities?

[A] Kochi

[B] Chennai

[C] Bengaluru

[D] Hyderabad

- ✓ On January 30, ISRO launched the Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC) at its headquarters in Bengaluru for the human spaceflight programme. The centre is the hub of ISRO's future manned missions.
- ✓ HSFC shall be responsible for the implementation of Gaganyaan project — which involves mission planning, development of engineering systems for crew survival in space, crew selection and training and also pursue activities for sustained human space flight missions.
- ✓ HSFC will take the support of ISRO centres to implement the first developmental [crewed] flight. Under the Gaganyaan project, a 3-member crew will be sent to space for at least 7 days by 2022, the 75th year of Independence.
- ✓ Dr. S Unnikrishnan Nair is the founder director of HSFC, while R Hutton is the project director of Gaganyaan.

7. Which of the following countries have officially set up a payment channel with Iran called INSTEX?

[A] Italy, Russia and the Netherlands

[B] Brazil, South Africa and Egypt

[C] Saudi Arabia, Denmark and Japan

[D] Germany, France and the UK

- ✓ Germany, France and the UK have officially set up a payment channel with Iran called INSTEX, to help continue trade and circumvent US sanctions.
- ✓ The long-awaited special payment system will help save the Iran nuclear deal by allowing Tehran to keep trading with EU companies despite Washington re-imposing sanctions after US

President Donald Trump abruptly quit the accord in 2018.

- ✓ The three countries have launched the device at a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Bucharest, Romania. The new institution 'INSTEX' is a project of the three governments and will receive the formal endorsement of all 28 EU members.
- ✓ The Instrument In Support Of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX) is registered in France and will be headed by German banker Per Fischer, a former Commerzbank director.

8. Who has become the first female cricketer to play 200 ODIs?

[A] Jemimah Rodrigues

[B] Mithali Raj

[C] Jhulan Goswami

[D] Smriti Mandhana

- ✓ Indian captain Mithali Raj has scripted history by becoming the first female cricketer to play 200 ODIs when she played 3rd and final ODI against New Zealand on February 1.
- ✓ Though, she could not make a big impact in her 200th game, scoring nine off 28 balls as India were bowled out for 149 in the third and final ODI against New Zealand at Hamilton.
- ✓ Mithali is also the highest run-getter in ODIs with 6622 runs at an average of 51.33, including seven hundreds. She also holds the record for having captained the India Women team 123 times with England's Charlotte Edwards again second on this list having captained the Three Lions for 117 matches.
- ✓ Mithali made her ODI debut way back in 1999 and has featured in 200 games out of the 263 ODIs India have played. She has also played 10 Tests and 85 T20.

9. The newly-named Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade will work under which union ministry?

[A] Ministry of Labour and Employment

[B] Ministry of Commerce and Industry

[C] Ministry of Finance

[D] Ministry of Consumer Affairs

- ✓ The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) has been renamed as the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade with a mandate to deal with matters related to start-ups, facilitating ease of doing business among others.
- ✓ The move comes amidst demand by traders' body CAIT (Confederation of All India Traders) for forming a separate ministry for internal trade.
- ✓ The newly-named department under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry will look into matters related to promotion of internal trade, including retail trade, welfare of traders and their employees, facilitating ease of doing business and start-ups.
- ✓ Earlier, the matters related to internal trade were under the domain of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs.

10. A music and dance festival 'Sopan 2019' has started in which of the following cities?

[A] New Delhi

[B] Bhopal

[C] Jaipur

[D] Kanpur

- ✓ On 1st February, a music and dance festival 'Sopan 2019' has started at Central Park in New Delhi to encourage young and upcoming artistes to take up traditional art forms.
- ✓ The fest is organised by Sahitya Kala Parishad and the Delhi government in association with New Delhi

Municipal Council (NDMC). It is an attempts to take forward the traditional Indian art forms.

- ✓ This 6-day long festival is an opportunity for upcoming talents from vocals and instruments to dance forms to set an audience base for themselves.
- ✓ Young artistes such as Odissi dancers Madhur Gupta and Premananda Sahoo, vocalist Shivam Bhardwaj, percussionists Aamir Hussan and Amaan Jamil, and Kathak dancers Mrinalini among others will perform during the musical extravaganza.

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1. The Kala Ghoda Arts Festival (KGAF-2019) has started in which of the following cities?

[A] Mumbai

[B] New Delhi

[C] Hyderabad

[D] Jaipur

- ✓ On 2nd February, the Kala Ghoda Arts Festival (KGAF-2019) has started in Mumbai to commemorate 20 years of its inception.
- ✓ The fest is the India's largest multi-cultural street festival, which will celebrate two glorious decades of art and culture through cinema, theatre, dance, literature and sculpture through various spots on Mumbai's map.
- ✓ The festival will also host exhibition at the historic Jehangir Art Gallery to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and some rich history of Mumbai.
- ✓ Some of the festival highlights include screening of Khalil Mohammad's documentary on Iranian cafes, performances by Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia, Shaan, Prakriti and Sukriti Kakar, panel discussion on 26/11 attacks and its survivors, a session on working of drones, heritage walks, dances and shopping at Rampart Row.
- ✓ The festival will end on 10th February.

2. Who has become the first Indian golfer to grab Australian LPGA card?

[A] Diksha Dagar

[B] Astha Madan

[C] Vani Kapoor

[D] Ridhima Dilawari

- ✓ Vani Kapoor has become the first Indian golfer to earn a card for the Australian Ladies PGA Tour

(LPGA) after coming through its first-ever Qualifying Tournament at the Ballarat Golf Club.

- ✓ Vani shot rounds of 71, 78 and 69 to finish at two-over 218 and was tied-12th with three others.
- ✓ Vani has also qualified for Vic Open, co-sanctioned by the Australian LPGA and the US LPGA.

3. Which country has won the 2019 Asian Cup Football tournament?

[A] Japan

[B] Qatar

[C] Iran

[D] Singapore

- ✓ The Qatar national football team has won their first major football title after defeating four-time champion Japan 3-1 in the 2019 AFC Asian Cup final on 1st of February in United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- ✓ It was an improbable run to glory for the Gulf nation as it prepares to host the 2022 World Cup. In it, Almoez Ali has broken the record for the most goals ever scored by a single player at an Asian Cup tournament (9) and won most valuable player award of 2019 tournament.
- ✓ Earlier, the record was held by Ali Daei who scored eight for Iran in the 1996 edition.
- ✓ Almoez Ali is a Qatari professional footballer of Sudanese descent who plays for Qatar and Al-Duhail in the Qatar Stars League as a forward.

4. Which of the following teams has won the Kochi Area Pulling Regatta 2019 ?

[A] INS Vikrant

[B] INS Dronacharya

[C] INS Betwa

[D] INS Vikramaditya

- ✓ A team from INS Dronacharya has won the Regetta trophy (also called The Cock) in the Kochi Area

Pulling Regatta 2019 of the Southern Naval Command (SNC) in the Ernakulam Channel on January 31.

- ✓ The Boat Pulling regatta is one of the most prestigious and traditional naval sporting activities conducted in the Navy.
- ✓ The boats used in the regatta are 27-foot-long 'whalers' — a type of seaboat — each having a crew of five 'pullers' (rowers) and one coxswain (helm).
- ✓ The boats are named as 'whalers' as they were used in ancient times for hunting whales at sea. Races during the regatta were held in four different categories -- junior sailors, senior sailors, officers and best whaler.
- ✓ The boats had to cover a distance of 1.6 km in the Ernakulam Channel, starting from the Venduruthy-Vikrant Bridge and finishing at the North Jetty of the navy.
- ✓ The regatta is considered a signature event of the Command, which requires the highest standards of physical and mental fitness and sustained hard work.

5. Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS), which is in news recently, is related to which of the following animals?

[A] Cow

[B] Camel

[C] Pig

[D] Goat

- ✓ The Mizoram government has banned import of pigs and piglets from other countries in view of possible outbreak of the Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) that has cost the lives of thousands of swines in the state.
- ✓ The orders were issued as the dreaded PRRS outbreak always occurred from March to July, during a dry spell after pre-monsoon downpours.
- ✓ According to the records of the Veterinary department, the PRRS has cost the lives of over

10,000 swines in Mizoram since 2013 and it is believed that it happened due to import of pigs and piglets from Myanmar where the disease was known to be prevalent.

- ✓ The PRRS is also known as blue-ear pig disease, which affects domestic pigs. The symptoms include reproductive failure, pneumonia and increased susceptibility to secondary bacterial infection.

6. What is the theme of the 2019 World Wetlands Day (WWD)?

[A] Forests and Wetlands

[B] Wetlands and Climate Change

[C] Wetlands for our Future

[D] Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future

- ✓ The World Wetland Day (WWD) is observed every year on 2nd of to raise awareness about the value of wetlands for humanity and the planet.
- ✓ The day marks adoption of the Convention on Wetlands (also called as Ramsar Convention) on 2nd February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on shores of the Caspian Sea.
- ✓ The 2019 theme "Wetlands and Climate Change" highlights the importance of healthy and intact wetlands to one of the most pressing challenges of climate change.

7. The first-ever global report "Future of the Rail" has prepared by which international organisation?

[A] IEA

[B] WHO

[C] IMF

[D] AIIB

- ✓ The International Energy Agency (IEA) has prepared the report titled 'The Future of Rail' in association with the International Union of Railways (UIC).

- ✓ This first-ever global report has a specific focus on India, where rail passenger traffic increased by nearly 200% since 2000.
- ✓ The report stated that Indian railways will account for nearly 40% of total global rail activity by 2050. The investments in Indian urban rail infrastructure are estimated to reach nearly \$190bn by 2050. As a result, India can save up to \$64bn on fuel expenses by that time.
- ✓ The IAEA report analyses the current and future importance of rail around the world through the perspective of its energy and environmental implications. As per the report, the rail sector carries 8% of the world's passengers and 7% of global freight transport but it utilises only 2% of total transport energy demand.
- ✓ The regions with the highest share of electric train activity are Europe, Japan and Russia, while North and South America still rely heavily on diesel. Most conventional rail networks are located in North America, Europe, China, Russia, India, and Japan.

8. What is the theme of the 12th edition of Aero India 2019?

- [A] The Runway to a Billion Opportunities
- [B] The Runway to a Million Opportunities
- [C] The Runway to a Trillion Opportunities
- [D] The Runway to Unlimited Opportunities

- ✓ The 12th edition of the India's premier air show – Aero India 2019 will be held at Air Force Station at Yelahanka in Bengaluru from February 20 to 24.
- ✓ The Ministry of Defence has lined up programmes for Start-Ups Day, Women's Day, Daily Students' Day, Drone Olympics and photography contests as sideshows to make it an interactive affair. More than 350 exhibitors will be accommodated in five hangers at the Air Force Station.
- ✓ This year, the aero show is themed 'The Runway to a Billion Opportunities', to communicate India's value proposition in addressing the immense

opportunities in the aerospace and aviation sectors in the country today. The logo for Aero India 2019 is inspired by the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA).

9. Which Indian state has topped in budgetary practices, as per latest survey by Transparency International (TI)?

- [A] Andhra Pradesh
- [B] Odisha
- [C] Assam
- [D] Punjab

- ✓ As per latest survey conducted by Transparency International (TI), Assam has occupied the top slot in the ranking of best practices followed by states in Budget formulation and is followed by Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.
- ✓ The states which figured lower in the ranking were Meghalaya, Manipur and Punjab.
- ✓ The survey was carried out on the basis of four parameters – public disclosure, budgetary process, post budget fiscal management and efforts to make budget more transparent and citizen friendly.
- ✓ Transparency International has stated in its survey report that Assam is the only state out of the 29 states and two union territories which has published a Citizens Budget in the public domain. It also stated that the Assam Government is the only government that has conducted budget awareness campaigns across 17 districts.

10. India's unemployment rate hit a 4 decade high to what percent in 2017-18, as per PLFS survey by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)?

- [A] 5.2%
- [B] 6.1%
- [C] 4.3%
- [D] 7.3%

- ✓ As per the National Sample Survey Office's (NSSO's) periodic labor force survey (PLFS), India's unemployment rate hit a 45 year high of 6.1% in 2017-18.
- ✓ The latest data on unemployment in India is the first comprehensive survey on employment conducted by a government agency after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced demonetisation move in November 2016.
- ✓ The report, which is yet to come in public domain, stated that this level of unemployment was last seen in 1972-73.
- ✓ According to the survey, the rate of unemployment among rural males in the age group of 15-29 years was at 17.4%, more than three times the 2011-12 rate of 5%. A similar trend was seen in females in the same age group, where the rate jumped from 4.8% in 2011-12 to 13.6% in 2017-18.
- ✓ The rate of joblessness for urban youths was a whopping 18.7% for males and 27.2% for females.

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1. Rishi Kumar Shukla, who has been appointed the new Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), is from which state?

[A] Rajasthan

[B] Madhya Pradesh

[C] Uttar Pradesh

[D] Jharkhand

- ✓ Rishi Kumar Shukla, a 1983-batch IPS officer of Madhya Pradesh Cadre, has been appointed the new Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- ✓ He will serve in the post for a period of two years. The High-Level Committee chaired by Prime Minister approved the appointment of Mr Shukla to the post. He succeeded M. Nageshwara Rao, who was working as Interim Chief of the Agency.
- ✓ The post of CBI Chief has been lying vacant since 10th of January 2019 after the exit of Alok Kumar Verma following accusations of corruption against him by former CBI Special Director Rakesh Asthana who is also allegedly accused of corruption charges.
- ✓ Prior to being appointed as the director of the CBI, Mr. Shukla has served as Madhya Pradesh DGP in 2016 and was presently the chairman of the Madhya Pradesh Police Housing Corporation (PHC) in Bhopal.

2. Who has been appointed as the new Nepalese ambassador to India?

[A] Nilambar Acharya

[B] Deep Kumar Upadhyay

[C] Arjun Karki

[D] Shankar Prasad Sharma

- ✓ Nilambar Acharya, Nepal's former law minister, has been appointed as the country's ambassador to

India. The position of the Nepalese ambassador to India was vacant for more than a year after Deep Kumar Upadhyay resigned to join politics in October 2017.

- ✓ President Bidya Devi Bhandari has recently administered oath of office to Acharya at Rastrapati Bhawan at Sheetal Niwas. Acharya is the first Nepalese ambassador to take oath of office and secrecy from the president under a new provision. Earlier, ambassadors were administered oath of office by Supreme Court chief justice.

3. Who is the recipient of K.Veeramani Award for Social Justice 2018?

[A] P S Krishnan

[B] Nitish Kumar

[C] S T Moorthy

[D] Veera Munusam

- ✓ P.S. Krishnan, former Secretary to Government of India (GoI), has been conferred prestigious K. Veeramani Award for Social Justice 2018 for his works in the field of social justice for SCs, STs, BCs for the last more than six-and-half decades. The Periyar International Inc., a Chicago-based voluntary organisation, gives an annual award for outstanding contributions to Social Justice at a function in New Delhi. The award carries a plaque and a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh.

4. Behrouz Boochani, who won the Australia's richest literary prize, is from which country?

[A] Palestine

[B] Saudi Arabia

[C] Iran

[D] Oman

- ✓ The Kurdish Iranian journalist, filmmaker and detained refugee, Behrouz Boochani has won the

Victorian Prize for Literature for a book he reportedly wrote using the online messaging service WhatsApp. He was awarded the Aus\$100,000 (US\$72,600) prize for his book "No Friend But the Mountains: Writing from Manus Prison". He will receive an additional Aus\$25,000 after it also won the non-fiction category.

- ✓ The award was accepted by the book's translator Omid Tofighian, who worked with Boochani over five years to bring the stories to life. It is the most valuable literary prize of Australia. Boochani is an Iranian asylum-seeker, who detained in Papua New Guinea (PNG)'s Manus Island since 2013 under Australian asylum laws when he was found attempting to enter mainland Australia without a valid visa.
- ✓ He is among 600 refugees who remain in camps on the island despite Australia having closed its "regional processing center" there in 2017. Under Australia's hardline immigration policy, asylum seekers who try to reach the country by boat to Manus Island or Nauru in the Pacific for processing, with those found to be refugees barred from resettling in Australia.
- ✓ The harsh policy is meant to deter people embarking on treacherous sea journeys, but the United Nations and other rights groups have criticised the camps' conditions and long detention periods.

5. Who has become the first Asian woman cricketer to play hundred T20Is?

[A] Sana Mir

[B] Bismah Maroo

[C] Harmanpreet Kaur

[D] Daendra Dottin

- ✓ Sana Mir, the former Pakistan captain, has become the first Asian woman cricketer to play hundred T20 Internationals (T20Is).

- ✓ She achieved the feat when she took the field against West Indies during the third T20I in Karachi on February 3, 2019. Overall, Mir is the only sixth woman from around the world to play 100 T20Is. Daendra Dottin of West Indies tops the list with a total of 109 T20's to her name. In the Asian list, Sana is followed by fellow Pakistan cricketer Bismah Maroo (94 T20Is) and India's Harmanpreet Kaur on third position (93 T20Is).

6. Which of the following states has recently declared Indus river dolphin as the state's aquatic animal?

[A] Haryana

[B] Himachal Pradesh

[C] Punjab

[D] Jammu & Kashmir

- ✓ Punjab has recently declared the endangered Indus river dolphin as the state's aquatic animal. The decision was recently taken at a meeting of the state board for wildlife chaired by chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh.
- ✓ Indus Dolphin is an endangered freshwater aquatic mammal found only in Indian and Pakistan in the Beas river. These are brown/grey in colour, but blind and live for at least for 30 years.
- ✓ The Chief Minister also gave approval to declare Kanjli Wetland and holy Kali Bein River as a wildlife conservation reserve to mark the historic 550th Parkash Purb of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji. The sacred Kali Bein River was associated with the life of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, who got enlightenment while taking a dip in the holy river.

7. Which state government has launched the 2nd phase of Pasupu-Kumkuma scheme?

[A] West Bengal

[B] Telangana

[C] Odisha

[D] Andhra Pradesh

- ✓ On February 2, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu launched the 2nd phase of Pasupu-Kumkuma (Turmeric-Kumkum) scheme and welfare pensions. Under the scheme, women who are a part of Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) will be given Rs 10,000 in three instalments. Approx Rs 9400 crore have been granted for the scheme.
- ✓ The welfare pensions for senior citizens, widows, handloom workers, toddy tappers, fishermen, single women, dappu (one kind of drum) artists, cobblers and AIDS patients have been increased from Rs 1000 to Rs 2000, while pension for divyangs and eunuchs have been increased from Rs 1500 to Rs 3000. Furthermore, kidney disease victims will be given a pension of Rs 3500.

8. What is the theme of the 2019 World Cancer Day (WCD)?

[A] Not Beyond Us

[B] Debunk the Myths

[C] I Am and I Will

[D] Cancer Myths – Get the Facts

- ✓ The World Cancer Day (WCD) is observed every year on 4th of February to spread awareness about cancer, its treatment and to encourage methods of its prevention.
- ✓ The aim of the day is to save millions of preventable deaths each year through education, raising awareness and by pressing governments and individuals across the world to take action against the deadly disease. This year, in 2019, Union for International Cancer Control, which organizes WCD, has launched a new 3-year campaign with the theme: "I Am and I Will".
- ✓ The campaign is an empowering call-to-action urging for personal commitment and represents the power of individual action taken now to impact the

future. Over 9.6 million People die each year from cancer which is more than HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined.

- ✓ India has around 2.25 million cases with over 1 lakh new cases being registered every year. In 2018, the disease led to nearly 7 lakh deaths. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) estimates that the country is likely to register over 17 lakh new cases and report over 8 lakh deaths by 2020.

9. Alaa Mashzoub, who was recently shot dead, was the renowned novelist of which country?**[A] Iraq**

[B] Afghanistan

[C] Pakistan

[D] Bangladesh

- ✓ In Iraq, a renowned novelist & critic Alaa Mashzoub (51) was shot dead by unknown assailants on 2nd of February in the city of Karbala. He was known as a bold writer who was not afraid to broach political and religious taboos in his writings.
- ✓ His research into the history of his hometown was published in two parts as 'A Summary of Karbala Cultural History'. Mashzoub spoke out against sectarianism and militias. He was known as an outspoken writer who published in a variety of newspapers and wrote several novels, including The Chaos of the Nation (2014) Crime on Facebook (2015), and The Jewish Baths (2017).
- ✓ Mashzoub has 20 published books and has written extensively about Karbala's history and culture. He has also written about Iraq's once-thriving Jewish minority. He had been recognized by a number of filmmaking and writing prizes, including a Katara Prize for Arabic Fiction and a prize for his documentary film 'Doors and Windows'.
- ✓ In recent times, Iraq has seen a number of political assassinations, particularly of outspoken activists. Karbala is about 100 kilometers southwest of Baghdad.

10. The World Heritage Centre (WHC) would be set up at which of the following states?

[A] Chennai

[B] Dehradun

[C] New Delhi

[D] Kolkata

- ✓ The World Heritage Centre (WHC) housing 'spiritual camps' of 45 countries would be set up at Mayapur in Nadia district, Kolkata. The camp of each country would reflect its culture, dress, lifestyle, food and ambiance.
- ✓ The process for setting up the centre got momentum after West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee inquired about the project at a recent administrative meeting in Nadia district.
- ✓ The proposed project would also showcase traditional Bengali handloom and craft as suggested by the chief minister.
- ✓ The estimated project cost of the proposed centre has been fixed at Rs. 3,000 crore. Mayapur is the global headquarters of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON).

Winmeen Daily Current Affairs

1. Who is the recipient of the 2019 Kalamaharshi Baburao Painter Award at the 2019 Kolhapur International Film Festival (KIFF)?

[A] Gajendra Ahire

[B] Abhijit Deshpande

[C] Govind Nihalani

[D] Rohini Hattangadi

- ✓ An acclaimed cinematographer and screenwriter and filmmaker, Govind Nihalani will be honoured with the Kalamaharshi Baburao Painter Award for his contribution to the film industry at the 2019 Kolhapur International Film Festival (KIFF). The 7th edition of the film festival is scheduled to be held from February 7 to 14.
- ✓ The award is named after Painter, a native of Kolhapur who was a painter, sculptor and a filmmaker of the silent film era. More than 50 feature and short films, including those from Japan, South Korea, France and Iran, among others, will be screened at a well-known multiplex here as part of the 2019 KIFF.
- ✓ The country focus will be on Hungarian cinema.

2. Ramesh Bhatkar, who passed away recently, was the renowned actor of which regional cinema?

[A] Marathi

[B] Tamil

[C] Telugu

[D] Odia

- ✓ Ramesh Bhatkar (70), the veteran Marathi actor, has passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra on February 4, 2019. He was known for his roles in the TV series "Commander" and "Hello Inspector" and worked for more than 30 years as an actor in mainstream Hindi and Marathi films such as "Aai

Pahije", "Kucch To Hai" and "Bhavesh Joshi Superhero".

- ✓ For the last 30 years, Ramesh has played lead roles in such plays as Ooghaddale Swargache Daar (1982), Denaryaache Haath Hazaar (1980), Shadyantra (1991), Kevha Tari Pahate, Akher Tu Yeshilach, Rahu Ketu, Mukta, The Boss- Sutradhar, Kinara.

3. Which city is the venue of the ICT Academy Bridge 2019 conference?

[A] Jaipur

[B] New Delhi

[C] Pune

[D] Chennai

- ✓ In Tamil Nadu, the 37th edition of the ICT Academy Bridge 2019 conference was held in Chennai with theme "Fostering India for Industry 4.0".
- ✓ The event brought together industry experts, academic leaders and government policy-makers to address the challenges faced by India Inc. in the era of Fourth Industrial Revolution & therefore creating a correlated education ecosystem and formulating a strategic regulatory framework.
- ✓ It is the largest Industry-Institute Interaction Event of Asia and is organized by ICT Academy. The city witnessed more than 1,000 participants from government, industry and academia.

4. Which Indian squash player has won the 2019 Seattle Open title?

[A] Saurav Ghosal

[B] Ramit Tandon

[C] Harinder Pal Sandhu

[D] Cyrus Poncha

- ✓ Indian squash player Ramit Tandon has won the 2019 Seattle Open title by defeating Mohamed El Sherbini of Egypt in the final in USA. It is his fourth

title in his career. The Seattle Open is a Professional Squash Association (PSA) challenger squash Tour event.

5. Which state government has launched Kalia Students' Scholarship Scheme to boost education for farmers children?

[A] Chhattisgarh

[B] Tamil Nadu

[C] Assam

[D] Odisha

- ✓ In Keonjhar district, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched the new 'KALIA Chhatravritti Yojana' to facilitate the children of the farmers, who are the beneficiaries of the Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) scheme.
- ✓ Under this scholarship scheme, the beneficiaries will be provided scholarships for pursuing higher education in professional courses free of cost. Children of farmers who have taken admission at Government Professional colleges on merit basis will be eligible for the scholarship scheme.
- ✓ The state government has also launched drinking water projects worth Rs 1,050 crore to supply safe drinking water in the district. Patnaik also launched Mission Shakti Conclave dedicated the development projects worth Rs 45 crore.

6. Which of the following states has become the first Indian state to set up a Price Monitoring and Research Unit (PMRU)?

[A] Punjab

[B] Kerala

[C] Karnataka

[D] Telangana

- ✓ Kerala has become the first State to set up a Price Monitoring and Research Unit (PMRU) to track violation of prices of essential drugs and medical devices under the Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO).
- ✓ The move comes more than 5 years after the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) proposed such a system for the States and the Union Territories.
- ✓ The new watchdog will offer technical help to the State Drug Controllers and the NPPA to monitor notified prices of medicines, detect violation of the provisions of the DPCO, look at price compliance, collect test samples of medicines, and collect and compile market-based data of scheduled as well as non-scheduled formulations.

7. Who won the 2019 El Salvador presidential election?

[A] Nayib Bukele

[B] Josue Alvarado

[C] Hugo Martínez

[D] Carlos Calleja

- ✓ The media-savvy former mayor of San Salvador, Nayib Bukele of the Grand Alliance for National Unity (GANU) has won a landslide victory in 2019 El Salvador presidential election by winning over 53% of the total vote. With this, he brought an end to a two-party system that has held sway over the violence-plagued Central American country for three decades.
- ✓ Bukele will succeed Salvador Sánchez Cerén, after whom the leadership chair was vacant for a period of time. He will assume office on 1 June 2019.

8. Which space telescope has discovered a new dwarf galaxy 'Bedin 1' in the cosmic neighbourhood?

[A] Astro 2

[B] Astrosat

[C] Hisaki

[D] Hubble

- ✓ The Hubble Space Telescope (HST) has made an unexpected discovery of a new dwarf galaxy in our cosmic neighborhood. Named Bedin 1, the galaxy is approximately 30 million light-years away and 2 million light-years from the nearest plausible large galaxy host 'NGC 6744'.
- ✓ The object is classified as a dwarf spheroidal galaxy because it measures only around 3,000 light-years at its greatest extent, and it is roughly a thousand times dimmer than our own Milky Way Galaxy.
- ✓ The galaxy is named after discovery team leader Dr. L. R. Bedin of the INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Padova in Italy. The dwarf spheroidal galaxies are not uncommon, Bedin 1 has some notable features. Not only is it one of just a few dwarf spheroidals that have a well established distance but it is also extremely isolated.
- ✓ This makes it possibly the most isolated small dwarf galaxy discovered to date. The Dwarf spheroidal galaxies are defined by their small size, low-luminosity, lack of dust and old stellar populations. 36 galaxies of this type are already known to exist in the Local Group, 22 of which are satellite galaxies of the Milky Way.
- ✓ The researchers used the NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope to study white dwarf stars within the globular cluster NGC 6752. The aim of their observations was to use these stars to measure the age of the globular cluster, but in the process they made an unexpected discovery of Bedin 1.

9. INF Treaty, which is in news recently, is in between which of the following countries?

[A] Taiwan & China

[B] France & Germany

[C] United States & Russia

[D] Israel & Palestine

- ✓ The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty is a Cold War-era missile treaty that was signed in 1987 between the United States and the Soviet Union. Signed by Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev, the treaty barred both countries from deploying land-launched cruise missiles in the 500- to 5,500-km range. It was a key to ending the arms race between the (then) two super powers and helped protect the U.S.'s NATO allies in Europe from Soviet missile attacks.
- ✓ The deal addressed Soviet nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles targeting Western capitals, but put no restrictions on other major military actors such as China. Recently, it is in news because the United States has suspended its obligations under the INF Treaty with Russia effective on 2nd February 2019 and will withdraw from the treaty in six months.
- ✓ Article XV of the treaty mandates a six-month notice period before withdrawal. The reasons for withdrawal are as follows: the Trump and Obama administrations have repeatedly alleged that Russia was violating the treaty by fielding a ground-based cruise missile, the Novator 9M729 ("SSC-8" in NATO terminology) that could strike Europe at a short notice, an allegation that Russia has repeatedly denied.
- ✓ The Russians have raised counter-allegations against the U.S., with regard to launchers for antiballistic missile systems in Europe.

10. Aribam Syam Sharma, who has decided to return his Padma Shri award in protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill of 2016, is from which north-eastern state?

[A] Manipur

[B] Mizoram

[C] Nagaland

[D] Tripura

- ✓ Manipur-based filmmaker and music composer Aribam Syam Sharma has decided to return his

2006 Padma Shri award in protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 that the Centre wants to push through.

- ✓ The 83-year-old filmmaker made the decision after families of around 855 martyrs of the anti-foreigners Assam Agitation of 1979-85 returned the citation that the Sarbananda Sonowal government had given them in 2016. The government had also honored these families with Rs 5 lakh each for the sacrifice of the martyrs.
- ✓ The protests have rocked the entire northeast against the proposal to grant citizenship to non-Muslims from neighbouring Muslim-majority countries. The film fraternity of the region backed the decision of Manipur filmmaker Aribam Syam Sharma to return his Padma Shri in protest against the bill.
- ✓ The Bill seeks to fast-track the process of granting citizenship to non-Muslims from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan who came to India till December 31, 2014, allegedly because of religious persecution.

Winmeen Daily Current Affairs

1. GSAT-31, which is in news recently, is launched from which of the following places?

[A] French Guiana

[B] Sriharikota

[C] Florida

[D] Moscow

- ✓ India's latest communication satellite GSAT-31 was successfully launched by European launch services provider- Arianespace's rocket from Kourou Launch Base in French Guiana on February 6, 2019. The Ariane-5 vehicle (Flight VA247) also carried Saudi Geostationary Satellite 1/Hellas Sat 4 along with GSAT-31.
- ✓ After a 42-min flight, GSAT-31 separated from the Ariane-5 in an elliptical Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) with a perigee (nearest point to Earth) of 250 km and an apogee (farthest point to Earth) of 35,850 km, inclined at an angle of 3.0 degree to the equator.
- ✓ After separation from Ariane-5, the two solar arrays of GSAT-31 were automatically deployed in quick succession and ISRO's Master Control Facility at Hassan in Karnataka took over the command and control of GSAT-31 and found its health parameters normal.
- ✓ The GSAT-31 is a high power communication satellite with Ku-band and will provide communication services to Indian mainland and islands. It has an operational life of over 15 years & will offer seamless services by replacing the ageing INSAT-4CR satellite. GSAT-31 is India's 40th communication satellite.

2. Ladu Kishore Swain, who passed away recently, was the current MP from which Lok Sabha constituency of Odisha?

[A] Aska

[B] Keonjhar

[C] Jagatsinghpur

[D] Sundargarh

- ✓ Ladu Kishore Swain (71), the senior Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leader, has passed away in Bhubaneswar on 5 February 2019. He was elected to the 16th Lok Sabha in May 2014 from Aska constituency of Odisha.

3. Who is the head of the committee which is constituted by the Maharashtra to review welfare schemes for tribals?

[A] Vivek Pandit

[B] Vasanttrao More

[C] A T Nana Patil

[D] Sudhakar Wagh

- ✓ The Maharashtra government has set up a 17-member committee to review various schemes being implemented for the welfare of tribals in the state.
- ✓ The committee will be headed by former MLA and Shramjeevi Sanghatna president Vivek Pandit. The panel will undertake the study of various works done for providing employment opportunities, minimum wages and proper livelihood to tribals.
- ✓ As per a recent government order, the committee will suggest measures to ensure that children in tribal regions were not deprived of education. The committee will hold its meetings every three months and submit its recommendations to the government.

4. What is the theme of the 30th National Road Safety Week (NRSW-2019)?

[A] Your Security, Safeguards your Family- Be warned on the Roads

[B] Road Security a Goal, Not an Intermission

[C] Sadak Suraksha-Jeevan Raksha

[D] Walk for Road Security

- ✓ On 4th February, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways launched the 30th National Road Safety Week (NRSW-2019) in New Delhi to raise public awareness about traffic rules and ultimately to reduce casualties due to road accidents. The 2019 theme is "Sadak Suraksha-Jeevan Raksha".
- ✓ In an event at Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in Rajghat, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari also flagged off a motor car rally to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- ✓ The motor rally will cover around 7250 km and will travel through those places in India, Bangladesh and Myanmar which are historically associated with Gandhiji. The conclusion of the rally will take place at Yangon in Myanmar on the 24th February 2019.

5. Which union ministry has launched Shehri Samridhi Utsav?

- [A] Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- [B] Ministry of Home Affairs
- [C] Ministry of Urban Development
- [D] Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs**

- ✓ On 5th February, the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched Shehri Samridhi Utsav to extend the outreach of DAY-NULM (Deendayal Antyodaya Mission – National Urban Livelihoods Mission) to the most vulnerable.
- ✓ The event will also showcase its initiatives and facilitate access of Self-Help Group (SHG) members to the other government schemes. Through Shehri Samridhi Utsav, SHG members across cities are being linked to national government schemes viz.
- ✓ Swachhh Bharat Mission (U), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (U), Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

(PMUY), Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana (PMJJY) and National Nutrition Mission (NNM). The major highlight of Utsav is the National Exhibition cum sale of SHG products and National Street Food Festival being organized in New Delhi.

6. Which of the following PSEs has been declared winner under Miniratna Category by Ministry of MSME for exemplary work amongst CPSEs for promotion of SC/ST entrepreneurs?

- [A] SAIL
- [B] AAI
- [C] NFDC**
- [D] IRCTC

- ✓ The National Film Development Corporation of India (NFDC) has been selected as winner under the Miniratna Category by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).
- ✓ This has been done as part of endeavor by Ministry of MSME to felicitate select Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) to recognize their exemplary work towards promotion of SC/ST entrepreneurs.
- ✓ As per data uploaded on Sambandh Portal, the performance parameters for the felicitation were procurement from SC/ST entrepreneurs, number of vendor development programmes for SC/ST and number of SC/ST entrepreneurs benefitting.
- ✓ The NFDC, incorporated in the year 1975, was formed by the Government of India (GoI) with the primary objective of planning and promoting an organised, efficient and integrated development of the Indian film industry.

7. Sentinelese Tribe, which is in news recently, is located in which of the following islands?

- [A] South Sentinel Island
- [B] Kondul Island

[C] Bompuka

[D] North Sentinel Island

- ✓ The North Sentinel Island (NSI) is home to the Sentinelese tribe, which have consistently refused any interaction with the outside world. They are hostile to outsiders and have killed people who approached or landed on the island. Sentinelese people are believed to be the only pre-Neolithic people in the world.
- ✓ This means they have a culture that existed in the middle period of Stone Age. Their use of metals is not specifically known with many believe that they don't use metals for purposes other than in weapons. The tribe is in news recently because the Minister of State for Home Affairs Hansraj Gangaram Ahir gave information about the tribe in a written reply to question in the Lok Sabha.
- ✓ The tribe is on the verge of extinction as per 2011 census; there are a number of laws/regulations to protect them. These are being strictly implemented and enforced by the UT Administration. These Laws/Regulation include 1) A & N Islands (PAT) Regulation 1956, 2) Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, 3) Restrictions under Foreigner (Restricted Area) Orders, 1963, 4) Visa Manual Conditions/Passport Act 1920, and 5) Indian Forest Act, 1927 and Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ✓ The NSI is one of the Andaman Islands, an archipelago in the Bay of Bengal which also includes South Sentinel Island.

8. The joint HADR Exercise 'RAHAT-2019' will be conducted in which of the following states?

[A] Madhya Pradesh

[B] Jharkhand

[C] Rajasthan

[D] Uttar Pradesh

- ✓ In Rajasthan, the joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise 'RAHAT-2019' will be conducted by Jaipur based Sapta Shakti Command on behalf of Indian Army from 11th February.
- ✓ The 2-day exercise will be conducted simultaneously in three places viz. Jaipur in the form of a table top exercise and at Kota and Alwar on-ground capability and coordination.
- ✓ The Joint exercise in coordination with NDMA is being conducted to synergise efforts for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations. Representatives from Armed Forces, National Disaster Management Response Mechanism (NDMRM), SDMA Rajasthan and DLMAs will be participating in the exercise.

9. Which high court has ruled against negative marking in competitive examinations?

[A] Delhi High Court

[B] Calcutta High Court

[C] Madras High Court

[D] Bombay High Court

- ✓ In a huge relief to a number of students who fail to qualify to enter into prestigious institutions like IITs due to negative marking, the Madras High Court ruled against negative marking in competitive examinations saying they are bad in law.
- ✓ The Court stated that the practice of awarding negative marks will eradicate intelligent guessing in competitive exams.
- ✓ The judgment was passed while disposing of a writ petition filed in 2013 by an IIT JEE aspirant S. Nelson Prabhakar (a Scheduled Caste student), who failed to clear the Mains due to negative marking.

10. Dakshayani, which is in news recently, is a/an _____?

[A] Space Center

[B] Novel

[C] Animal

[D] Religious tradition

- ✓ Dakshayani, an 88-year-old captive she-elephant in Kerala, has died at a care centre at nearby Pappanamcode in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on 5th February 2019.
- ✓ She was the oldest captive elephant in Asia and Guinness record holder. She was also called the 'Gaja Muthassi' (grandmother of elephants). In 2016, she was conferred the "Gaja Muthassi" (elephant granny) title and entered the Guinness book of records.
- ✓ The Postal department had also brought out a postal cover on the elephant. Dakshayani had been a resident at the Chengallur Mahadeva temple in Thiruvananthapuram for the last 70 years and was owned by Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB).

Winmeen Daily Current Affairs

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

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

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

2. The Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog (RKA) would be set up for ___?

- [A] Conservation of Cows
[B] Protection of Cows
[C] Progeny of Cows
[D] All of the above

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

including the development and conservation of indigenous breeds.

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

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

- [A] India Apparel [B] India Size
[C] India Attire [D] India Outfit

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

4. Which country has recently signed NATO accession agreement?

[A] Romania [B] Croatia

[C] Macedonia [D] Kosovo

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

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

[A] Tamil Nadu [B] Andhra Pradesh

[C] Kerala [D] Karnataka

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

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

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

[A] 6.0% [B] 6.75%

[C] 6.50% [D] 6.25%

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

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

[A] Kanpur [B] New Delhi

[C] Udaipur [D] Dehradun

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

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

[A] Punjab [B] Assam

[C] Delhi [D] Odisha

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

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

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

[A] Thailand [B] Indonesia

[C] Vietnam [D] Malaysia

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

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

[A] Singhpo [B] Mishmi

[C] Nyishi [D] Apatani

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

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

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

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Winmeen Daily Current Affairs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[D] Nagarajan Niranjana

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

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

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

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

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

- [A] 52nd [B] 14th

[C] 36th

[D] 43rd

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

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

[A] ILO

[B] UNESCO

[C] UNICEF

[D] FAO

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

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

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

[A] LPG – Safe for Life

[B] LPG – Energy for Life

[C] LPG – Spirit for Life

[D] LPG – Reliable for Life

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

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

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

[A] Arunachal Pradesh

[B] J&K

[C] Jharkhand

[D] Himachal Pradesh

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

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

[A] Malda

[B] Hooghly

[C] Darjeeling

[D] Jalpaiguri

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

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

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

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

[A] INS Talwar

[B] INS Trishul

[C] INS Trikand

[D] INS Tarkash

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

Winmeen Daily Current Affairs

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. Jeremy Lalrinnunga is related to which sports?

- [A] Boxing [B] Judo
[C] **Weightlifting** [D] Wrestling

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

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

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

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

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

[A] Rahul Bhatnagar

[B] Radheyshyam Julaniya

[C] Vinod Sahay

[D] Preetam Kumar

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

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

[A] West Bengal

[B] Assam

[C] Goa

[D] Maharashtra

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

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

[A] Great hornbill

[B] Yellow-footed green pigeon

[C] Indian roller

[D] Great Indian Bustard

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

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

[A] February 10

[B] February 11

[C] February 09

[D] February 08

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

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

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

- [A] Nepal [B] Bangladesh
[C] Bhutan [D] Myanmar

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

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

- [A] RBI [B] SEBI
[C] IFSC [D] IRDAI

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

Winmeen Daily Current Affairs

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

- [A] Pune [B] Hyderabad
[C] Guwahati [D] Jaipur

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

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

- [A] Section 35A [B] Section 47A
[C] Section 44A [D] Section 49A

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

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

- [A] Rs 1.5 lakh [B] Rs 1.6 lakh
[C] Rs 1.7 lakh [D] Rs 1.4 lakh

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

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

- [A] February 11 [B] February 09
[C] February 08 [D] February 10

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

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

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

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

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

[C] Shashi Tharoor [D] Soli J Sorabjee

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

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

[A] Bageshwar [B] Pithoragarh

[C] Tehri Garhwal [D] Rudraprayag

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

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

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

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

[A] Iran [B] UAE

[C] Saudi Arabia [D] Oman

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

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

[A] Greater Noida [B] Dehradun

[C] Shimla [D] Bhopal

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

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

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

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

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

- [A] Nagaland [B] Tripura
[C] Meghalaya [D] Arunachal Pradesh

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- [A] New Delhi [B] Dubai
[C] Paris [D] London

✓ On 10th of February, the 7th edition of World Government Summit (WGS-2019) was held at Madinat Jumeirah in Dubai, UAE to deliver a road map towards a more prosperous future for all nations.
✓ The 3-day event was held under the patronage of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid, Vice President and Ruler of Dubai. The focus of the summit was on 7 key topics: the future of technology, the future of health and quality of life, the environment and climate change, education and the labour market, trade and international co-operation, societies and politics and information and communication between governments and society.
✓ More than 4,000 decision-makers from 140 countries – including heads of state, ministers and business leaders – are participating the event. The summit is a knowledge exchange platform at the intersection of government, futurism, technology, and innovation. It functions as a thought leadership platform and networking hub for policymakers, experts and pioneers in human development.
✓ It also showcases innovations, best practices, and smart solutions to inspire creativity to tackle these future challenges.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- [A] Dehradun [B] Lucknow
[C] Gandhinagar [D] Kurukshetra

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Winmeen Daily Current Affairs

1. Which city is the venue of the CREDAI YouthCon -19?

- [A] Ahmedabad [B] Varanasi
[C] Kolkata [D] New Delhi

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

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

- [A] Radio and Sports
[B] Radio is You
[C] Dialogue, Tolerance and Peace Broadcasts
[D] Securing freedom of expression and journalists' safety

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

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

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

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

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

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

- [A] Jharkhand [B] Tamil Nadu
[C] J & K [D] Arunachal Pradesh

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

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

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

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

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

- [A] New Delhi [B] Ranchi
[C] Jaipur [D] Pune

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

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

- [A] Iceland [B] Norway

- [C] France [D] Japan

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

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

- [A] Circular Economy for Productivity & Sustainability
[B] Industry 4.0 Leapfrog Opportunity for India
[C] From waste to profits-through reduce, recycle and reuse
[D] Ease of Doing Business for higher productivity

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Winmeen Daily Current Affairs**1. Who is the newly appointed Election Commissioner (EC) of India?**

[A] Shelesh Bhardwaj

[B] Sushil Chandra

[C] Ashutosh Saxena

[D] Alok Chaudhary

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

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

[A] Ram Sutar Vanji

[B] Chhayanaut

[C] Rajkumar Singhajit Singh

[D] Milind Kumar

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

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

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

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

[A] ADB

[B] IMF

[C] AIIB

[D] World Bank

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[A] Pawan Kumar Chamling

[B] Anand Mahindra

[C] Frank Bainimarama

[D] James Alix Michel

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

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

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

[A] Ayurveda

[B] Unani

[C] Siddha

[D] All of the above

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

contact details of the concerned authority for specific grievances.

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

[A] Pramod Chandra Mody

[B] Poonam Kishore Saxena

[C] Kaiser Chand Bohra

[D] Pritam Jain

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

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

[A] The Favourite

[B] A Star Is Born

[C] Roma

[D] Bohemian Rhapsody

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

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

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

[A] New Delhi to Varanasi

[B] Allahabad to Hooghly

[C] Shimla to Kolkata

[D] Mumbai to Chennai

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

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

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

[A] Denmark

[B] Norway

[C] Sweden

[D] Iceland

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

Winmeen Daily Current Affairs

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

[A] Kanjira

[B] Idakka

[C] Ghumot

[D] Chenda

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

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

[A] Shashi Tharoor

[B] P Chidambaram

[C] Arun Jaitley

[D] Sushma Swaraj

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

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

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

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

[A] Sumatran serow

[B] Gayal

[C] Clouded Leopard

[D] Ox

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

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

[A] New Delhi

[B] Pune

[C] Hyderabad

[D] Panaji

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

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

[A] Chhattisgarh

[B] Rajasthan

[C] Madhya Pradesh

[D] Karnataka

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

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

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

[A] IMF

[B] World Bank

[C] AIIB

[D] ADB

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

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

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

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

[A] Himachal Pradesh

[B] Odisha

[C] Jharkhand

[D] Bihar

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

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

[A] Balwant Gargi

[B] Waris Shah

[C] Nanak Singh

[D] Mohan Singh

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

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

[A] Vishnu Wagh

[B] Mangesh Padgaonkar

[C] Arun Kolatkar

[D] Namdeo Dhasal

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

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

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

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

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

[A] Dinesh Raghu Raman

[B] Nazir Ahmad Wani

[C] Takht Singh

[D] Bachittar Singh

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

Winmeen Daily Current Affairs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A. Raigarh

B. Ambikapur

C. Kumbakonam

D. Greater Hyderabad

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

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

A. France

B. Germany

C. England

D. Japan

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

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

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

A. Jaipur

B. New Delhi

C. Hyderabad

D. Raipur

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

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

A. Priya Sharma

B. Hina Jaiswal

C. Mohana Singh

D. Pratibha Kumari

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Winmeen Daily Current Affairs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

D. Jodhpur

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Winmeen Daily Current Affairs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Winmeen Daily Current Affairs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

✓ Prof. Wallace Smith Broecker (87), a scientist who raised early alarms about climate change and popularized the term "global warming", has passed away in New York, United States. He brought "global warming" into common use with a 1975 paper that correctly predicted rising carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere would lead to pronounced warming.

✓ He was also an advocate for political action to deal with the problem. Broecker was also a pioneer in radiocarbon and isotope dating and became the first person to recognise what he called the ocean conveyor belt, a global network of currents affecting everything from air temperature to rain patterns. He joined Columbia's faculty in 1959 and was known in science circles as the "Grandfather of Climate Science".

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

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

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

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

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

D. Elise Mertens

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

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

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

D. Novak Djokovic

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Winmeen Daily Current Affairs

1. Who has become the first woman President of the Astronomical Society of India (ASI)?

- A. Pramila Mehta
- B. Gautami Kapoor
- C. Radha Sharma
- D. **G C Anupama**

- ✓ Dr. G C Anupama has become the first woman President of Astronomical Society of India (ASI), prime association of professional astronomers in the country. She succeeded R K Tyagi. Prior to this post, she was the Dean and Senior Professor at the Bengaluru based Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA). Dr. Anupama is also the India group head of an international team of scientists that is building a 'Thirty Meter Telescope' (TMT) at a cost of over \$1 billion in Hawaii, USA.
- ✓ TMT is an international project being funded by scientific organisations of Canada, China, India, Japan, and USA. She has presented many papers on Astrophysics (supernova) at international conferences and was also Project in Charge for the design and establishment of the Himalayan Telescope at the Hanle Observatory in Leh, Ladakh. The Leh telescope is the only one at the highest elevation in the world and has been providing valuable data for the scientific community.

2. What is the theme of the 2019 International Mother Language Day (IMLD)?

- A. Linguistic diversity and multilingualism count for sustainable development
 - B. **Indigenous Languages as a factor in development, peace and reconciliation**
 - C. Towards Sustainable Futures through Multilingual Education
 - D. Quality education, language(s) of instruction and learning outcomes
- ✓ The International Mother Language Day (IMLD) is observed every year on 21st of February to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and

multilingualism. Since 2019 is also the International Year of Indigenous Languages (IYIL19), the theme of this year's IMLD is "Indigenous Languages as a factor in development, peace and reconciliation". At least 43% of the estimated 6000 languages spoken in the world are endangered.

- ✓ Only a few hundred languages have genuinely been given a place in education systems and the public domain. According to UN data, a language disappears every two weeks taking with it an entire cultural and intellectual heritage. UNESCO has been celebrating IMLD for nearly 20 years with the aim of preserving this linguistic diversity and promoting mother tongue-based multilingual education. Progress is being made in this direction with a growing understanding of its importance, particularly in early schooling.

3. In which of the following neighboring countries, the Festival of India has started?

- A. **Nepal**
 - B. Bangladesh
 - C. Myanmar
 - D. Bhutan
- ✓ In Nepal, a month-long 'Festival of India' has started in Kathmandu to familiarize the new generation of the country about the similarities between the two countries. The festival, organised by the Indian Embassy and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, is being held in Kathmandu and other major cities of Nepal from February 19th to March 21st.

4. Which city is the venue of the 2019 International Vision Zero Conference?

- A. Dehradun
 - B. **Mumbai**
 - C. Shimla
 - D. New Delhi
- ✓ In Maharashtra, the International Vision Zero Conference was held in Mumbai from 18th to 20th February 2019 to promote Occupational Safety and Health. The conference provides a forum for

promoting safety and health at work by exchanging knowledge, practices and experience. It is organized by the Directorate General Factory Advice and Labour Institutes (DGFASLI), IIT Bombay together with the German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV) and with strong support of the ISSA Sections on Construction, Electricity, Mining, Transportation and Information. The concept of Vision Zero is based on four fundamental principles viz. life is non-negotiable, humans are fallible, tolerable limits are defined by human physical resistance, and people are entitled to safe transport and safe workplaces.

- ✓ The Vision is based on principles of Controlling Risks, Ensuring Safety and Health in Machines, Equipment and Workplaces and Skill Upgradation of Workforce.

5. Which state Police has inducted India's first humanoid robot officer?

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

- ✓ The Kerala State Police claimed to have created history by becoming one of the world's first and the very first police force in India to induct humanoid robots called 'KP-Bot'. KP-Bot is designed to provide round-the-clock service, involving public interface and front office administration and overcome human limitations to avoid, to the extent possible, human error. However, it does not replace any human resources. Rather, it would act as the first contact point and a data collection tool to help improve the overall quality of service and performance levels.

6. Which Indian politician has been conferred with 'Grand Cross of Order of Civil Merit' award in Spain recently?

- A. Sumitra Mahajan
- B. Narendra Modi
- C. Sushma Swaraj**

D. Venkaiah Naidu

- ✓ The Spain government has recently conferred Union External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj with a prestigious award 'Grand Cross of Order of Civil Merit'. The award was conferred in recognition of India's support in evacuating 71 Spanish nationals through Operation Maitri from Nepal in April 2015 during the disastrous earthquake, which killed nearly 9,000 people and injured as many as 22,000 people.

7. Which state government has launched KALIA Chhatra Bruti scholarship?

- A. Assam
- B. Punjab
- C. Jharkhand
- D. Odisha**

- ✓ Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has recently launched KALIA Chhatra Bruti Scholarship at the Secretariat for the children of the KALIA Scheme beneficiaries, who are studying and aspiring for technical and professional education. The state government is implementing the KALIA (Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation) scheme for the benefit of the farmers. Under the scheme, named after Lord Jagannath, the government would provide financial assistance of Rs. 10,000 per family to small and marginal farmers as assistance for cultivation.
- ✓ Each family will get Rs 5,000 separately in the kharif and rabi seasons, for five cropping seasons between 2018-19 and 2021-22. The scheme is not linked to the amount of land owned. Besides, landless households would be provided Rs 12,500 to take up activities like goat rearing units, mini layer units, duckery units, fishery kits for fishermen and women, mushroom cultivation and beekeeping,.

8. Which of the following telescopes has recently helped to discover 300000 new galaxies?

- A. LOFAR**
- B. Hubble

C. Spitzer Space

D. Euclid

- ✓ An international team of more than 200 astronomers from 18 countries has published the first phase of a major new radio sky survey at unprecedented sensitivity using the Low Frequency Array (LOFAR) telescope in the journal *Astronomy & Astrophysics*. The survey discovered 3,00,000 hidden galaxies using radio astronomy in a tiny corner of the northern hemisphere at low radio frequency.
- ✓ It is believed that these findings will help shed new light on some of the Universe's deepest secrets. This includes the physics of black holes as well as research into how galaxy clusters evolve. The LOFAR telescope is operated by ASTRON in The Netherlands and is considered to be the world's leading telescope of its type.
- ✓ It is made up of a network of radio antenna across seven countries, forming the equivalent of a 1,300-km diameter satellite dish. It is capable of detecting light source beyond the power of optical instruments. Radio astronomy allows scientists to detect radiation produced when massive celestial objects interact.

9. Space Policy Directive-4 (SPD-4), sometimes seen in news, is associated with which country?

A. France

B. **United States**

C. Germany

D. Russia

- ✓ President Donald Trump has recently signed an executive order 'Space Policy Directive-4 (SPD-4)' to establish its Space Force as a new military service within the Department of Air Force. The main goal of the Space Force is to secure and extend American dominance of the space domain.
- ✓ As per the order, the Space Force would be an armed branch of the military and include both combat and combat support functions to enable prompt and

sustained offensive and defensive space operations in all domains.

- ✓ The force will be organized, trained, and equipped to meet and protect the US national interests in the space, consistent with international laws. Currently, the Air Force is the US military branch that currently has responsibility for space.

10. The "Words in the Garden" festival on Gandhian philosophy is scheduled to be held in which of the following cities?

A. Shimla

B. Ahmedabad

C. **New Delhi**

D. Gandhi Nagar

- ✓ The 3rd edition of "Words in the Garden" festival 2019 is scheduled to be held on February 22 in New Delhi and will pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi with the theme -- 'Bapu ki Dilli'. The 3-day festival will celebrate the creativity, imagination and ideas that Delhi generates, sustains and embodies. Commemorating 150 years of Gandhi's birth anniversary, the event will feature plays, recitals, readings, discussions honoring the life and ideology of Bapu.
- ✓ Highlights include M K Raina's play "Stay Yet A While", poems, recitals, acts and music by Gandhi Ambedkar Circle of St Stephen's College, storytelling by Mahmood Farooqui on Gandhi's final journey and Madhup Mudgal's "Ashram Bhajanavali". The fest is free and open to all, and will see participation by stalwarts from the fields of literature, art, and social sciences among others. The fest is the brain child of renowned Hindi writer Ashok Vajpeyi.

Winmeen Daily Current Affairs

1. Which Indian personality has been honored with the 2018 Seoul Peace Prize recently?

- A. Sushma Swaraj
 - B. Narendra Modi**
 - C. Manmohan Singh
 - D. Manohar Parrikar
- ✓ On 22nd February, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been honored with the prestigious Seoul Peace Prize - 2018 for his contribution to international cooperation and fostering global economic growth. The award credited 'Modinomics' for reducing social and economic disparity between the rich and the poor. The Peace Prize committee also credited him for his contribution toward regional and global peace through a proactive policy with countries around the world.
- ✓ The award was presented to him by the Seoul Peace Prize Foundation at a grand ceremony in Seoul. A short film on the life and achievements of Prime Minister Modi was also screened at the event. He dedicated the \$200,000 prize money to 'Namami Gange Programme', which is flagship programme of his government to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of River Ganga. Modi is the 14th recipient of the award and the past laureates included former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and renowned international relief organizations like Doctors Without Borders and Oxfam.

2. Which city is the venue of the 12th edition of Aero India show 2019?

- A. Bengaluru**
 - B. Kolkata
 - C. Chennai
 - D. Kochi
- ✓ The 12th edition of the country's biennial air show and aviation exhibition - Aero India 2019 – has been launched by Union Defence Minister Nirmala

Sitharaman at the Air Force Station Yelahanka in Bengaluru on 20th Feb. The chiefs of the three Armed Forces —Air Chief Marshal B.S. Dhanoa, Admiral Sunil Lanba and General Bipin Rawat — were in attendance at the show organised by the Ministry of Defence.

- ✓ The 5-day aero show is themed 'The Runway to a Billion Opportunities', to communicate India's value proposition in addressing the immense opportunities in the aerospace and aviation sectors in the country today. This year, there are 403 registered exhibitors, of which 238 are Indian companies and 165 foreign companies. Around 60 aircraft are on display, including Rafale jet, Boeing planes, Airbus A330, Super Hercules and HAL'S Light weight helicopter. The logo for Aero India 2019 is inspired by the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA).

3. The 16th Russia-India-China (RIC) Foreign Ministerial Meeting is scheduled to be held in which of the following cities?

- A. Shanghai
 - B. Moscow
 - C. Wuzhen**
 - D. New Delhi
- ✓ The 16th meeting of the Russia-India-China (RIC) Foreign Ministers would be held at the Chinese city of Wuzhen in the eastern Zhejiang province on February 27. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will participate in the meeting together with the host Foreign Minister Wang Yi and the Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.
- ✓ The Ministers are expected to exchange views on the global situation, regional developments of common concern, address global challenges such as terrorism and discuss trilateral exchanges and activities. The meeting assumes significance as it will be the first high-level interaction between India and China after the Pulwama terror attack carried out by Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) in which 40 CRPF soldiers were killed on February 14.

- ✓ China has expressed shock over the incident, but reiterated its stand to block moves to list JeM chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist by the UN's 1267 Sanctions Committee. The last RIC Foreign Ministerial Meeting had been held in New Delhi on 11 December in 2017.

4. Who has been appointed as the first court-appointed ombudsman for the BCCI?

A. DK Jain

B. Anil Singh

C. Jitendra Kumar

D. Raveesh Gupta

- ✓ The Supreme Court has appointed former apex court judge Justice DK Jain as the first court-appointed ombudsman for the BCCI under the terms of newly approved constitution of the cricket board. The role of the ombudsman would be to resolve the disputes relating to the players within the state cricket associations as also financial issues.
- ✓ The ombudsman will have to hold hearings at the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) headquarters in Mumbai. It must be noted that Article 40, chapter nine of the BCCI constitution deals with the issue of appointment of ombudsman for the purpose of providing an independent dispute resolution mechanism. The types of disputes that come under the ambit of ombudsman pertain to members, associations and IPL franchisee.

5. Which Indian personality has been elected as the new Vice-President of the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF)?

A. Mariamma Koshy

B. Asima Ali

C. Rajinder Singh

D. Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad

- ✓ Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad from India has been elected as the new Vice-President of the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) for a four-year term at the AHF Congress in Gifu, Japan. Beside him, Ms. Asima Ali has been elected unopposed as one of the executive board members of the AHF.

- ✓ Mushtaque Ahmad is currently serving as the President of Hockey India, while Ali of Hockey Jammu & Kashmir is the Vice-President of the national federation. The AHF Executive Board manages the affairs of the continental federation, implements the decisions of the AHF Congress, supervises over the AHF CEO and professional staff, as well as appoints the AHF Committees.

6. Which state government has rolled out its flagship 'Mukhyamantri Yuva Swabhiman Yojana' ?

A. Jharkhand

B. Rajasthan

C. Chhattisgarh

D. Madhya Pradesh

- ✓ The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Kamal Nath government has rolled out its flagship 'Mukhyamantri Yuva Swabhiman Yojana' that guarantees 100 days of employment every year to urban youths from Economically Weaker Sections (EWS).
- ✓ Apart from this, they will also be given skill development training by the government. The purpose of the scheme is to empower the unemployed youth candidates. Only those youths, whose family's annual income is less than Rs 2 lakh and who are in the age group of 21-30 years, are eligible for the scheme.

7. The 2019 edition of Medical Fair India (MFI) has kick started in which of the following cities?

A. New Delhi

B. Bhubaneswar

C. Ranchi

D. Pune

- ✓ On 21 Feb, the 2019 edition of Medical Fair India (MFI) was kick started in New Delhi in which global medical device manufacturers, healthcare experts industry bodies, think tanks and policy makers from over 25 countries are participating. The 3-day medical trade show 'MFI' is organised by Messe Dusseldorf India, a fully owned subsidiary of Messe

D sseldorf GmbH, the world's leading trade fair organiser and exhibitions service provider.

- ✓ The MFI is well known for its ability to detect trends and respond to new innovations. Therefore, each edition is unique as it explores new sub-segments and opportunities for diversification. It will act as a platform for healthcare experts and stakeholders to share and discuss tangible solutions to diverse healthcare bottlenecks, challenges and issues of concerns.

8. Param Shivay, sometimes seen in news, is associated with which field?

- A. Missile
- B. Satellite
- C. Super computer
- D. Rocket

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently launched the supercomputer 'Param of 833 teraflop capacity built at the IIT-BHU. It is built at the cost of Rs 32.5 crore under the National Super Computing Mission. About 40% of the total computer power will be used by the students of Navodaya Vidyalaya. The institute claims that relevant social issues faced by common people like irrigation schemes, traffic management, health, an affordable drug will also be taken care of with the help of this supercomputer centre.
- ✓ The 'Param Shivay' will include 1 peta byte secondary storage and appropriate open source system and application software suite using 223 processor nodes, 384 GB per node DDR4 RAM, parallel file system, including CPU and GPU. India's first supercomputer called PARAM 8000 was launched in 1991. At present, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) has Pratyush, National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) has Mihir and IISc has SERC-Cray as supercomputers in India.

9. The Integrated Large Scale Eri Farming has been launched in which north-eastern state of India under NERTPS?

- A. Arunachal Pradesh
- B. Nagaland
- C. Assam
- D. Tripura

- ✓ Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani has recently launched the Integrated Large Scale Eri Farming under North East Region Textile Promotion Scheme (NERTPS) in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh. It's the centrally funded Scheme for Eri silk Farming that will initially cover five districts of the state, which are: Papumpare, East Kameng, Siang, East Siang and West Siang.
- ✓ The skill training will be imparted to eri silk farmers and weavers under the Samarth Scheme. Beside this, Government of India (GoI) will also provide financial assistance to 4000 beneficiaries under NERTPS. The purpose of the Samarth (Scheme For Capacity Building In Textile Sector) scheme is to skill the youth for gainful and sustainable employment in the textile sector.

10. Which Defence PSU has launched Atmospheric Water Generator at Aero India 2019?

- A. BDL
- B. BEML
- C. HAL
- D. BEL

- ✓ At Aero India show 2019, Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) has launched its new product "Atmospheric Water Generator (AWG)" to meet the ever-increasing need for drinking water worldwide. The AWG employs a novel technology to extract water from the humidity present in the atmosphere and purify it. It uses heat exchange for condensing the atmospheric moisture to produce pure, safe and clean potable water.
- ✓ The AWG comes with a Mineralisation Unit, which is used to add minerals which are required to make the water potable. The AWG is configurable in static and mobile (vehicular) versions and is available in 30 litres/day, 100 litres/day, 500 litres/day and 1,000 litres/day capacities The Atmospheric Water

Generator can be used to provide drinking water in community centres and public places like health care centres, schools, colleges, offices, railway stations, bus stands, airports, sea ports, off-shore oil rigs, military establishments, remote field areas and remote establishments and residential complexes. It is manufactured by BEL in collaboration with CSIR-IICT and MAITHRI, a start-up company based in Hyderabad

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1. Which city is the venue of the ET Global Business Summit 2019?

- A. New Delhi
- B. Hyderabad
- C. Jaipur
- D. Nagpur

- ✓ In New Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 5th edition of the Economic Times (ET) Global Business Summit 2019 on Feb 23 to offer insights into the direction of future policy. The two-day summit hosted business leaders and technology entrepreneurs from some of the most talked about and disruptive companies across the globe including Nathan Blecharczyk, co-founder of AirBnB, Martin Eberhard co-founder of Tesla, Sebastian Thrun CEO of KittyHawk and many more.
- ✓ The summit is a flagship initiative of the Times Group that envisions to bring together visionaries, thought leaders, heads of state, policy makers, academicians and corporate heads cohesively driving a singular agenda for Scripting Economic Change, by connecting the building blocks of Economics for India and the globe.

2. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has recently decided to keep which country on grey list for failing to curb terror funding?

- A. Iraq
- B. North Korea
- C. Iran
- D. Pakistan

- ✓ International terror financing watchdog, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has decided to keep Pakistan on its grey list, despite India's push to blacklist it in the aftermath of Pulwama terror attack. The decision was recently taken at the end of week-long meetings by the FATF in Paris. The Paris-based FATF stated that Pakistan has made only limited progress in curbing money laundering and terrorism financing. It failed to show a proper

understanding of the risks posed by terror outfits like Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, Jamat-ud-Dawa and others. Pakistan has until October 2019 to either comply with the demands made by FATF members or it could be blacklisted.

- ✓ The FATF has asked Pakistan to swiftly complete its action plan that includes showing sanctions were being applied in cases of money laundering and terrorism financing. It also has to demonstrate better cooperation between authorities, identify illegal money flows, and enhance support for prosecutors, among other measures. Terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad had claimed responsibility for the Pulwama attack. Iran and North Korea are currently blacklisted.

3. Who has been sworn-in as the first Lokayukta of Nagaland?

- A. K M Munshi
- B. Uma Nath Singh
- C. Raghuvver Singh
- D. Ravi Malhotra

- ✓ Justice Uma Nath Singh, the former Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court, has been sworn-in as the first Lokayukta of Nagaland and will hold the office for a term of 5 years or till he attains the age of 70. Governor PB Acharya administered the oath to Justice Singh him at a function held at Raj Bhavan in Kohima on 22nd Feb 2019. The Lokayukta is an anti-corruption ombudsman organization in the Indian states.
- ✓ Once appointed, Lokayukta cannot be dismissed nor transferred by the government, and can only be removed by passing an impeachment motion by the state assembly. Maharashtra was the first state to introduce the institution of Lokayukta through The Lokayukta and Upa-Lokayuktas Act in 1971. This was followed by similar acts that were enacted by the states of Odisha, Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the union territory of Delhi.

4. Which IIT has tied up with Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) to address public health issues?

- A. IIT-Bombay
- B. IIT-Indore
- C. IIT-Kanpur
- D. IIT-Madras**

- ✓ IIT-Madras has entered into an agreement with Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) to address public health issues and predict adverse pregnancy outcomes using technology. The aim of the pact is to bring physician-scientists, biologists, engineers and data scientists together to solve public health problems related to maternal and child health.
- ✓ The objective is to apply advanced analytical approach for prediction of adverse pregnancy outcomes, evaluate maternal and childhood consequences of exposure to environmental pollutants, among others. The THSTI is an autonomous institute of Department of Biotechnology (DBT). DBT is a department under Ministry of Science and Technology.

5. Kodi Ramakrishna, who passed away recently, was the well-known film director of which regional cinema?

- A. Telugu**
- B. Tamil
- C. Malayalam
- D. Odia

- ✓ Kodi Ramakrishna (69), the veteran Telugu film director, has passed away in Hyderabad on Feb 22. Born at Palakollu in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh, Ramakrishna made his debut in 1992 with romantic comedy 'Intlo Ramaiah-Veedhilo Krishnaiah' starring Chiranjeevi. He was known for championing the use of visual effects (VFX) to enhance cinematic experience in Telugu cinema.
- ✓ His films like 'Ammoru' and 'Arundhati' were praised for their VFX work. Some of his other popular films include Gudachari No 1, Muddula

Krishnaiah, Pelli Pelli Pandiri and Rikshavodu. In 2016, Ramakrishna also commenced work on a biopic on Sathya Sai Baba, and it features Malayalam actor Sreejith Vijay in the titular role. The project still remains incomplete.

6. Which news agency has launched the world's first female AI news anchor 'Xin Xiaomeng'?

- A. Central News Agency
- B. Kyodo
- C. Xinhua**
- D. Yonhap

- ✓ China's state-run news agency, Xinhua has launched the world's first female AI news anchor 'Xin Xiaomeng' to read alongside its male AI news presenters. She was developed jointly by Xinhua and search engine company Sogou Inc.
- ✓ Xiaomeng is expected to make a debut in March during the upcoming meetings of the country's national legislature and top political advisory body. Earlier, in 2018, China became the first country in the world to develop the first of its kind AI 'journalist', a male news presenter by the name of Qui Hao.

7. Who has become the first Indian woman to win the Future for Nature 2019 Award?

- A. Neeta Desai
- B. Divya Karnad**
- C. Roshni Mukherjee
- D. Manpreet Singh

- ✓ Dr Divya Karnad, who teaches at Asoka University, has bagged the prestigious Global Future For Nature Award 2019 for her work on marine conservation. With the feat, she has become the first woman and the second Indian to receive the honour, the only other Indian being Dr Charudutt Mishra. The Future For Nature Award is an international award that celebrates tangible achievements in protecting wild animal and planet species.

8. Which country has conducted a naval military exercise 'Velayat 97' from Persian Gulf to Indian Ocean?

- A. Turkey
- B. Iran**
- C. Saudi Arabia
- D. Oman

- ✓ An Iranian naval force has started a massive three-day drill, codenamed "Velayat 97", across two million square kilometers of sea between the Straits of Hormuz and the Indian Ocean, including a sensitive global shipping route. The drill will showcase Iran's submarines, warships, helicopters and drones. It is being held from the Strait of Hormuz to the southeastern coasts of Makran, the Sea of Oman and the northern parts of the Indian Ocean, down to the 10-degrees latitude.
- ✓ The naval exercise comes at a time of tensions with the US, after Washington condemned Iran at the summit in Warsaw. In addition Iran has upped tensions with Saudi Arabia after a terror attack in southeastern Iran, which Tehran blamed partly on Riyadh. Iran has also recently condemned the United Arab Emirates, Israel and the US. Sending its navy to the Strait of Hormuz, a major chokepoint for the world's oil, is provocative.
- ✓ The Strait of Hormuz is an international transit route where American forces routinely pass and which has seen tense encounters between them and Iranian forces in the past.

9. Who has become the brand ambassador of the Swasth Immunised India campaign?

- A. Alia Bhatt
- B. Aishwarya Rai
- C. Kareena Kapoor**
- D. Deepika Padukone

- ✓ Acclaimed actress Kareena Kapoor Khan has become the brand ambassador of the Swasth Immunised India campaign to spread awareness among parents about child vaccination to help prevent the future generation from life-threatening diseases.

- ✓ The nation-wide vaccination and immunisation campaign has been launched by Serum Institute of India (SII) in association with Network18. The primary aim of the campaign is to raise awareness about the importance and benefits of vaccine administration, advocating its acceptance and building a strong immunization outreach in the country. Working alongside the government, the campaign will strive to reach full immunization coverage through continuous education and awareness.

10. Who is the head of the CBDT panel to help bring down tax litigation?

- A. Sanjeev Sharma**
- B. Mohit Kumar
- C. Varun Jain
- D. K S Das

- ✓ The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has formed a four-member committee to look into the matter of taxation related pain points and submit its final report and recommendations by mid-March 2019. Its recommendations could include applying a filter for tax officer before a notice is issued and setting a time limit for concluding an investigation. The committee is head by income tax commissioner Sanjeev Sharma.

Winmeen Daily Current Affairs

1. Who has been honoured with AHF's Player of the Year award 2018?

- A. Rupinder Pal Singh
- B. P R Sreejesh
- C. Lalremsiami
- D. **Manpreet Singh**

- ✓ Indian Hockey Captain Manpreet Singh has been honoured with the 2018 Player of the Year award by the Asian Hockey Federation while women's team striker Lalremsiami bagged the Rising Player of The Year prize. Manpreet led the Indian team to an unbeaten streak at the Asian Champions Trophy in Muscat where the team was declared joint winners with Pakistan. He also contributed to the team's silver medal win at the FIH Champions Trophy in Breda and continues to remain instrumental in the Indian midfield.
- ✓ The 18-year-old Lalremsiami put up an impressive performance as a striker at the 2018 World Cup. She was also a part of the Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires where the under-18 team won a silver medal. The Indian men's team was awarded the 2018 Best Performance of The Year for being the only Asian side to have reached the top eight at the World Cup in Bhubaneswar.

2. Which state government has launched the boat ambulance service for remote areas?

- A. **Odisha**
- B. Jharkhand
- C. West Bengal
- D. Andhra Pradesh

- ✓ The Odisha government has launched a boat ambulance service to ferry patients to hospitals in remote areas. The service includes six boat ambulances and 60 jetties with walkway. The operational cost of the ambulances is estimated to be around Rs 90 lakh per annum. This new facility is hope for residents who live in far-flung areas and river-locked pockets of the state. The floating

ambulances will cater to the needs of people in areas where the '108' ambulance service has failed to make headway, due to lack of proper road route. The first boat ambulance was launched at Batighar in the Kendrapara district. The total project cost Rs 5.40 crore.

3. Who has been elected new president of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI)?

- A. I D Nanavati
- B. **Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh**
- C. Satyapal Singh
- D. Deshwal Birendra Lakra

- ✓ Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh has been elected third time unopposed as the President of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI). The elections of the office bearers and executive committee members of WFI for the next four-year term (2019-2023) were held at the Constitution Club of India (CCI). Along with Brij Bhushan, I.D. Nanavati has been elected as the Senior Vice President, V.N.Prasood as the Secretary General and Satyapal Singh Deshwal as the Treasurer. Singh, who is also a Member of Parliament (MP) from the Kaiserganj constituency of Uttar Pradesh, was the chef-de-mission of the Indian contingent for the Asian Games 2018 held in Jakarta and Palembang.

4. Which of the following Indian railway lines will be the world's highest railway line?

- A. Chandigarh-Manali-Leh railway line
- B. Kanpur-Shimla-Leh railway line
- C. Delhi-Shimla-Leh railway line
- D. **New Bilaspur-Manali-Leh railway line**

- ✓ The New Bilaspur-Manali-Leh railway line will be the world's highest railway line, which will consists of total 30 stations. It will lie along the Indo-China border & is expected to be completed by the year 2022. This new rail line will not only increase tourism but, will also help the armed forces. And also, the journey from Delhi-Leh will be completed

in half time. The estimated cost of the project is pegged at Rs 83,360 crore.

- ✓ Once complete, the 465-km railway line will be the world's highest railway track. At its highest point, the track would be at a height of 5,360 m above sea level. The 52% of the total 465 km length will pass through tunnels. The longest tunnel will be 27 km long. The total length of the tunnels is expected to be around 244 km. The project will also have almost 400 small bridges, 124 major bridges and about 74 tunnels.
- ✓ Once completed, trains on this line will run at a speed of 75 Kmph, which will reduce the time required to travel between New Delhi and Leh from 40 hours to just 20 hours. Leh is the most important town in Ladakh region of J&K State having approximately 1.5 lakhs population. It has a high footfall of Indian & Foreign tourists each year.

5. Which international organisation is organising the 4th Global Digital Health Partnership Summit 2019?

- A. WHO
- B. FAO
- C. UNESCO
- D. UNICEF

- ✓ Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), J P Nadda has inaugurated the 4th edition of Global Digital Health Partnership Summit in New Delhi on 25th February 2019. The global intergovernmental meeting on digital health is hosted by the MoHFW in collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO) and the Global Digital Health Partnership (GDHP).
- ✓ The GDHP is an international collaboration of governments, government agencies and multinational organisations dedicated to improving the health and well-being of their citizens through the best use of evidence-based digital technologies. The vision of the GDHP is to support governments and health system reformers to improve the health and well-being of their citizens through the best use of evidence-based digital technologies.

6. National War Memorial, sometimes seen in news, is located in which of the following cities?

- A. Ahmedabad
- B. New Delhi
- C. Mumbai
- D. Lucknow

- ✓ On 25th February, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the National War Memorial to the nation in the vicinity of the India Gate in New Delhi to honour Indian Armed Forces. The Memorial is a fitting tribute to our soldiers who laid down their lives defending the nation, post-independence. It also commemorates the soldiers who participated and made the supreme sacrifice in Peace Keeping Missions, and Counter Insurgency Operations.
- ✓ The layout of the National War Memorial comprises four concentric circles, namely, the 'Amar Chakra' (or Circle of Immortality), the 'Veerta Chakra' (or Circle of Bravery), the 'Tyag Chakra' (or Circle of Sacrifice), and the 'Rakshak Chakra' (or Circle of Protection). The National War Memorial complex includes a central obelisk, an eternal flame, and six bronze murals depicting famous battles fought by Indian Army, Air Force and Navy. The Memorial represents the culmination of the collective aspiration of a grateful nation to pay a fitting tribute to the martyrs. The Chief Architect of the National War Memorial is Ar. Yogesh Chandrahasan of Chennai-based WeBe Design Lab.

7. PM KISAN scheme has officially been launched from which of the following districts of Uttar Pradesh?

- A. Prayagraj
- B. Bareilly
- C. Gorakhpur
- D. Jhansi

- ✓ On 25th February, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has officially launched PM-KISAN (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana) scheme from Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh. The scheme was announced in the interim Budget 2019-20 on 1st February 2019. It is a Central Sector scheme with

100% funding from Government of India. Under the Scheme, Rs 6,000 will be given per year to small and marginal farmer families having combined land holding/ownership of upto 2 hectares. The amount will be given in three installments of Rs.2000 each.

- ✓ The amount will be transferred directly to the bank account of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer. DBT will ensure transparency in the entire process and will save time for the farmers. The Scheme was introduced to augment the income of the Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs).
- ✓ It is estimated to benefit more than 12 crore small and marginal farmers. The aim of the scheme is to supplement the financial needs of the SMFs in procuring various inputs to ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields, commensurate with the anticipated farm income at the end of the each crop cycle. This would also protect them from falling in the clutches of moneylenders for meeting such expenses and ensure their continuance in the farming activities.

8. 'Period. End of Sentence' has won the Best Documentary Short Subject award at the Oscar 2019. The short film is produced by which Indian producer?

- A. Krishan Kumar
- B. A R Murugadoss
- C. K Balachander
- D. Guneet Monga

- ✓ 'Period. End of Sentence', a documentary that tackles the stigma around menstruation in rural India, has won the Oscar in the Documentary Short Subject category at the 91st Academy Awards in Los Angeles. The film has been co-produced by Indian producer Guneet Monga and directed by Award-winning Iranian filmmaker Rayka Zehtabchi.
- ✓ The film is about women in India fighting against the deeply rooted stigma of menstruation and delving upon the work of real life 'Pad Man' Arunachalam Muruganathan. The documentary feature is set in Hapur village outside Delhi, where

women lead a quiet revolution as they fight against the deeply rooted stigma of menstruation.

- ✓ For generations, these women did not have access to sanitary pads, which lead to health issues and girls dropping out from schools. When a sanitary pad vending machine is installed in the village, the women learn to manufacture and market their own pads, empowering their community. They name their brand "FLY".

9. Which movie has been crowned Best Picture at the 91st Academy Awards?

- A. Bohemian Rhapsody
- B. The Favourite
- C. Green Book
- D. Roma

- ✓ An American biographical comedy-drama film "Green Book" has won the Best Picture at 91st Academy Awards at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles on 25th February 2019. Green Book also won best supporting actor for Mahershala Ali and best original screenplay.

- ✓ In it, British actress Olivia Colman won the best actress award for "The Favourite" for her performance as Queen Anne in the period comedy-drama. Rami Malek won the best actor for a biographical film "Bohemian Rhapsody". Filmmaker Alfonso Cuarón won Best Director Oscar for 'Roma', which is an American and Mexican drama.

- ✓ 'Roma' also won Oscars in the Best Foreign Language Film and Best Cinematography category. Pop diva Lady Gaga got the Best Original Song Academy Award for "Shallow" from her feature debut "A Star is Born". Marvel's Black Panther too won 3 Oscars – Best Original Music, Best Costume Design and Best Production Design.

10. Which Indian personality is the WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Hepatitis in South-East Asia Region?

- A. Amitabh Bachchan
- B. Sachin Tendulkar
- C. Virat Kohli

D. Kapil Dev

- ✓ On 24th February 2019, Union Minister Ashwini Kumar Choubey rolled out “National Action Plan – Viral Hepatitis” to eliminate viral hepatitis at Mumbai in presence of Amitabh Bachchan, WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Hepatitis in South-East Asia Region.
- ✓ The aim of the programme is to combat hepatitis and achieve countrywide elimination of Hepatitis C by 2030. The programme is also in line with the country's global commitment towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.3. India has affirmed this commitment at the 69th World Health Assembly.
- ✓ Viral hepatitis is a global public health problem that kills nearly 2.72 lakh people annually. It is an inflammatory condition of the liver caused by five known hepatitis viruses — A, B, C, D and E. Of these, B and C are known to cause 96% mortality.
- ✓ India is one of the few countries to roll out management of Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C in a public health approach and offer free diagnostics and drugs lifelong to its beneficiaries.

Winmeen Daily Current Affairs

1. Who has been conferred the International Gandhi Peace Prize for 2018?

- A. Yohei Sasakawa
- B. Desmond Tutu
- C. Chandi Prasad Bhatt
- D. John Hume

- ✓ On 26th Feb 2019, President Ram Nath Kovind conferred the International Gandhi Peace Prize for 2015, 16, 17 and 18 at a function in Rashtrapati Bhavan. For 2018, Japan's Yohei Sasakawa was given the prize for his contribution in Leprosy Eradication in India and across the world. Ekal Abhiyan Trust was conferred the award for 2017 for its contribution in providing Education for Rural and Tribal Children in remote areas pan India, Rural Empowerment, Gender and Social Equality.
- ✓ For 2015, Vivekananda Kendra (Kanyakumari) was given the award for its contribution in Rural Development, Education and Development of natural resources. For 2016, the award was presented jointly to Akshaya Patra Foundation for its contribution in providing mid-day meals to millions of children across India and Sulabh International for its contribution in improving the condition of sanitation in India and emancipation of manual scavengers. The award comprises a cash award of Rs. 1 crore, a citation in a scroll, a plaque and a traditional handicraft item.

2. The first-ever Skill Saathi Youth Conclave has launched in which of the following cities?

- A. Kochi
- B. Bhubaneswar
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Shimla

- ✓ The first-ever Skill Saathi Youth Conclave has inaugurated by Union Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan at Rail Auditorium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The program aims to create a mass movement around skill development in the

state and inspire youth to make the most of various skill development opportunities in the country.

- ✓ The conclave was aired live across 427 locations in Odisha, where more than 2 lakh candidates were mobilized for career counseling under Skill Saathi initiative. The initiative provides information on vocational training programs under Skill India mission, conduct psychometric test and provide face-to-face counselling interventions to guide aspirants to make the right choice of based on their interest and aptitude.

3. Which Indian Grandmaster has lifted the 2019 Cannes International Open trophy?

- A. Krishnan Sasikiran
- B. Parimarjan Negi
- C. Pentala Harikrishna
- D. Abhijeet Gupta

- ✓ In Chess, Indian Grandmaster Abhijeet Gupta lifted the 2019 Cannes International Open trophy with 7.5 points. He took an easy draw with Pier Luigi Basso of Italy in the ninth and final round. It was a clear point lead over nearest rivals Nikita Maiorov of Belarus, Nasuta Grzegorz of Poland and Yuri Solodovnichecko of Ukraine.

4. Bandipur Tiger Reserve, which is in news recently, is located in which of the following states?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Karnataka
- C. Odisha
- D. Telangana

- ✓ The horrific forest fire has recently broken out in the Bandipur Tiger Reserve (BTR) in Chamarajanagar district of Karnataka. The fire is estimated to have gutted 2,000 hectares of the forest. Hundreds of forest department officials along with local volunteers have been trying to douse the fire.
- ✓ However, strong winds and dry grass have aided the fire to spread towards the roads on National Highway 67. As a result, NH 67 (which connects Ooty

to Mysore) had to be closed for vehicles. There have been reports of loss of wildlife, but nothing has been confirmed so far. The Bandipur reserve is one of the first national parks in India and has the highest tiger density anywhere in the world.

- ✓ It has also been declared as an important area for elephant conservation. The reserve covers an area of 87,400 hectares and along with the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary and the Nagarhole National Park form one of India's ecologically diverse regions. It is home to vulnerable species like elephants, gaurs, tigers and Indian rock pythons.

5. Which Indian politician has authored the book "India in Distress"?

- A. Shashi Tharoor
- B. Arvind Kejriwal
- C. Mamata Banerjee
- D. Sonia Gandhi

- ✓ The book titled "India in Distress" has been authored by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, which is scheduled to be launch in the National Capital on February 27.
- ✓ Banerjee has so far published 87 books. Among the seven books that Banerjee has penned this time, there are ones for children, of poems in Bengali, Urdu and English and a couple of books on politics - in Hindi and Bengali.

6. Afghanistan has launched new export route to India through which of the following ports?

- A. Abadan
- B. Chabahar
- C. Bandar
- D. Khorramshahr

- ✓ The landlocked & war-torn nation, Afghanistan has recently launched new export route to India through the strategic Chabahar Port of Iran to boost regional connectivity. According to officials, the first shipment of 57 tonnes consists of dried fruits, textiles, carpets and mineral products in 23

trucks products were dispatched from western Afghan city of Zaranj to Chabahar port.

- ✓ The consignment will be shipped to the Indian city of Mumbai. The Iranian port provides easy access to the sea to Afghanistan and India has helped developed this route to allow both countries to engage in trade bypassing Pakistan.

7. Recently, India has been invited to 46th session of foreign ministers OIC. In this context, which of the following is not a correct statement?

- A. India is a member of OIC
- B. Official languages are Arabic, English, and French
- C. India is neither a member nor an observer
- D. Headquarters at Jeddah

- ✓ India has been invited to attend a meeting of foreign ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Abu Dhabi, UAE on the 1st and 2nd March of 2019. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will be the Guest of Honour and address the inaugural plenary of the 46th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of OIC at the invitation of UAE Foreign Minister.

- ✓ This is the first time that a leader of the non-Muslim country has been invited to the OIC conference. The move will boost relations with West Asian and Muslim-majority nations. New Delhi sees the invitation as a milestone in the comprehensive strategic partnership with the UAE. It is also a welcome recognition of the presence of 185 million Muslims in India and of India's contribution to the Islamic world. The official languages of the OIC are Arabic, English, and French.

8. Which country has recently introduced its new currency 'RTGS dollar'?

- A. Turkey
- B. Morocco
- C. Zimbabwe
- D. Sierra Leone

- ✓ Zimbabwe has recently introduced its new currency, dubbed as Real Time Gross Settlement

(RTGS) dollar, after the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) announced measures to try and resolve a chronic monetary crisis. The new currency replaces electronic bank savings called digital dollars and the bond notes, and was named after the RTGS system that banks use to transfer money between each other.

- ✓ The currency was launched at an initial rate of 2.5 RTGS dollars per US dollar. The RTGS dollar is supposed to bring together bond notes and debit card and mobile money payments to make sure that they are all worth the same.

- ✓ Bihar has become the first state in India which has raised its own dog squad to detect liquor consignment.
- ✓ All these dogs were imparted nine-month training at Hyderabad-based Integrated Intelligence Training Academy before being inducted in the Bihar Police. The total strength of the Bihar Police's dog squad stands at 68. On each dog, the state police spent around Rs 1.71 lakh and two handlers have been deputed. Notably, Bihar had banned liquor in the state in 2016.

9. What is the theme of the 2019 IAA World Congress?

- A. Brand Dharma
- B. Brand Fashion
- C. Brand Innovation
- D. Brand Evaluation

- ✓ In Kerala, the International Advertising Association (IAA) hosted the 44th edition of IAA World Congress 2019 at the Grand Hyatt Lulu International Convention Centre in Kochi from February 20 to 22. The theme of the IAA World Congress was 'Brand Dharma' which enlightened the delegates about the basic principles a brand has to follow to connect with its customers and society at large.
- ✓ Around 2,000 delegates from India and abroad participated in the event. The New York-based IAA has a presence in 55 countries, and consists of advertisers, advertising agencies and the media. The World Congress is held every alternate year in various destinations around the world.

10. Which of the following states has become the India's first state to have raised a special dog squad to detect liquor consignment?

- A. Assam
- B. Jharkhand
- C. Punjab
- D. Bihar

Winmeen Daily Current Affairs

1. 'Sampriti 2019' is the joint military exercise of India and which country?

- A. Bhutan
- B. Myanmar
- C. Iran
- D. **Bangladesh**

✓ The Indo-Bangladesh joint military exercise 'Sampriti-2019' is scheduled to be held at Tangail in Bangladesh from 02 March to 15 March 2019. It will be the 8th edition of the exercise which is hosted alternately by both countries. The 14-day exercise is aimed to strengthen and broaden the aspects of inter-operability and co-operation between the Armies of both countries. The exercise will involve tactical-level operations in a counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism environment under the UN mandate.

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

- A. Goodluck Jonathan
- B. Yemi Osinbajo
- C. **Muhammadu Buhari**
- D. Ibrahim Babangida

✓ Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari, a member of the governing All Progressives Congress (APC) party, has been re-elected for a second four year term. The 76-year-old Buhari defeated his main rival, former Vice President Atiku Abubakar with a margin of around 4 million votes. Buhari has been lauded for his progress against the insurgent group Boko Haram, which has killed more than 10,000 and displaced millions.

3. Which state government has launched the PRANAM Commission to protect parents of government employees?

- A. Odisha
- B. **Assam**
- C. Nagaland

D. Goa

- ✓ Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has recently launched the PRANAM Commission for protection of parents of state government employees. The Commission will look after the issues concerning a PRANAM (Parents Responsibility and Norms for Accountability and Monitoring) Bill to protect elderly parents of government employees in their times of need.
- ✓ PRANAM Bill, which was approved by the state cabinet in 2018, makes it mandatory for state government employees to look after their parents and unmarried Divyang siblings who do not have their own sources of income. As per the Bill, if the PRANAM Commission gets a complaint that parents of a state government employee is being ignored, and then 10 or 15% of the employee's salary will be deducted by the government and paid to the parents or differently-abled siblings.

4. Who has become the first-ever bowler in T20I history to pick 4 wickets in 4 balls?

- A. Lasith Malinga
- B. **Rashid Khan**
- C. Jasprit Bumrah
- D. Kuldeep Yadav

- ✓ Leg-spinner Rashid Khan claimed a hat-trick and became the first-ever bowler to bag four wickets in four deliveries in Twenty20 Internationals (T20I) on February 17, 2019. Rashid's impressive bowling performance in the third and final T20I also helped Afghanistan sweep the T20I series by a margin of 3-0 against Ireland in Dehradun.
- ✓ With this feat, Rashid also became the 7th bowler in the T20I history to bag a hat-trick and in the process also completed his second five-wicket haul in the format. Overall, Khan became the 2nd bowler in the history of the sport to do so in international cricket after Sri Lankan veteran Lasith Malinga pick up 4 wickets in 4 balls. Malinga achieved the milestone during the 2007 Cricket World Cup against South Africa.

5. Which state government has recently declared Monkeys as vermin?

- A. Tripura
- B. Arunachal Pradesh
- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. West Bengal

- ✓ The Himachal Pradesh government has again declared Monkeys as vermin for the next one year in 11 districts' 91 tehsils and sub-tehsils of state. Monkeys were declared as a vermin species because have been adversely affecting crops and causing harm to humans. Hence, this allows state forest authorities and people to carry out extermination (hunting/poaching) of monkeys on a large scale.
- ✓ Vermin are wild mammals and birds that are harmful to crops, farm animals or that carry disease. As per Section 62 of the Wildlife Protection Act (WPA) 1972, States can send a list of wild animals to the Centre requesting it to declare them vermin for selective slaughter.
- ✓ The Central Government may by notification, declare any wild animal other than those specified in Schedule I and part 11 of Schedule H of the law to be vermin for any area for a given period of time. As long as the notification is in force such wild animal shall be included in Schedule V of the law, depriving them of any protection under that law.

6. Who acquired 1st position in the national level competition at the National Youth Parliament Festival (NYPF-2019)?

- A. Shweta Umre
- B. M S Anjanakshi
- C. Mamta Kumari
- D. Neha Arusia

- ✓ On 27th Feb, Prime Minister Narendra Modi conferred the National Youth Parliament Festival (NYPF-2019) awards to the winners at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. The winners from the national level competition were Shweta Umre from Maharashtra (1st Position), Anjanakshi M.S from

Karnataka (IInd position) and Mamta Kumari from Bihar (IIIrd position).

- ✓ The 2019 fest was jointly organized by National Service Scheme (NSS) and Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), under the aegis of Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports. Youth in the age bracket of 18-25 years were invited to participate in the District, State and National level Youth Parliaments. The fest was based on the theme of 'Be the Voice of New India' and 'Find solutions and Contribute to Policy'. It provided a chance to the youth to brainstorm about new India and to find ways and chalk out plans to realize our resolves before 2022.

7. Titanwala Museum, sometimes seen in news, is located in which of the following states?

- A. Haryana
- B. Chhattisgarh
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Rajasthan

- ✓ In Rajasthan, Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani has recently inaugurated the 'Titanwala Museum' in Bagru that showcases the Chhipa community's hand-block printing. The museum will be open from Monday to Sunday between 9 am and 6 pm.
- ✓ The Bagru hand-block printing is one of the traditional techniques of printing with natural colour followed by the chippas of a remote place of Rajasthan. It uses vegetable dye colors such as indigo/dabu (a mixture of mud resist dabu and indigo dip dyeing techniques) and harda (which is a yellow base color). The art of block printing is a labor intensive process which requires lot of skillfulness, time and tolerance power of artisan.
- ✓ The wooden blocks of teak-wood are used for printing the design which are soaked in oil overnight and then washed before put to use. These collections of block are considered to be the wealth of Chhipa's that they have collected over a period of time. The cloth to be printed is soaked in the solution of clay and other chemicals to make the fabric

soften and then dried before used for printing. Neat stamping is foremost to get the appealing prints. After printing, cloth is left for drying in sun for final touch-up. Different types of motifs used in Bagru printing are Aath Kaliya, Chopad, and Kamal.

8. What is the theme of 2019 World Day of Social Justice?

- A. Preventing conflict and sustaining peace through decent work
 - B. Promote global justice & poverty eradication
 - C. **If You Want Peace & Development, Work for Social Justice**
 - D. A Just Transition – environmentally sustainable economies and societies
- ✓ The World Day of Social Justice is observed every year on February 20 to recognize the need to promote efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion and unemployment. The day focuses on the plight of social injustice throughout the world and presses for improvements and solutions. The 2019 theme is “If You Want Peace & Development, Work for Social Justice”.

9. Which semiconductor company has launched India's first indigenous semiconductor chips for 4G/LTE and 5G NR modems?

- A. **Signal Chip**
 - B. Ineda Systems
 - C. Saankhya Labs
 - D. Terminus Circuits
- ✓ Bengaluru-based Semiconductor Company “SignalChip” has launched India's first indigenous semiconductor chips for 4G /LTE and 5G NR modems in New Delhi. The SCBM34XX and SCRF34XX/45XX series of chips, code-named ‘Agumbe’, are the result of over 8 years of relentless and deep R&D by Signalchip engineers. The RF sections cover all LTE/5G-NR bands upto 6GHz.
- ✓ These chips also support positioning using India's own satellite navigation system, NAVIC. The Agumbe series builds up on SCRF1401: India's first RF transceiver chip for high performance wireless

standards like 3G/4G and WiFi, created by Signalchip in 2015. The combined multi-standard system-on-chip (SoC) can serve as a base station chipset for a wide range of form factors from low-cost indoor small cells to high performance base stations.

- ✓ These are optimally designed to support evolving network architectures like Open RAN/CRAN with flexible interface configurations. Through the IPs created for this device, the company now has the potential to design products for multiple related fields and is currently forging ahead with additional chipsets for advanced 5G NR features.

10. Which country has scored highest-ever T20 International Score?

- A. **Afghanistan**
 - B. India
 - C. Australia
 - D. England
- ✓ The Afghanistan cricket team has created history by posting the highest-ever T20 international score at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Dehradun, Uttarakhand on 23rd Feb 2019. They posted 278 runs from their 20 overs in the second T20I against Ireland.
- ✓ Here, Afghan batsman Hazratullah Zazai scored the 2nd highest individual score (162 runs off 62 balls) in T20Is, behind Australian cricketer Aaron Finch's 172. His innings also included a record 16 sixes and his first-wicket partnership with Usman Ghani was also a record for any wicket in a T20I, with 236 runs scored. With this feat, Afghanistan broke Australia's record score of 263/3 which they achieved back in 2016 against Sri Lanka.