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Current Affairs



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Winmeen Current Affairs**1. Where is the headquarters of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)?**

- A. Hyderabad
- B. New Delhi**
- C. Kochi
- D. Ahmedabad

- ✓ Recently, National drug pricing regulator NPPA has fixed the retail prices of 36 formulations, including those used for treatment of cancer, diabetes, infections, asthma, seizures, inflammation and pain, among others. As per data available with NPPA, the MRP for 105 brands will be reduced up to 85% entailing minimum saving of Rs 105 crore to consumers.
- ✓ The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) currently fixes prices of drugs placed in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) under Schedule-I of the DPCO. So far, around 1000 drugs have been brought under price control under the initiative. It also monitors annual price increase for these and the non-scheduled drugs. It also administers Pharma Sahi Dam and Pharma Jan Samadhan platforms for information on medicine prices and registering public grievances. The headquarters of NPPA is located in New Delhi.

2. What is the theme of the 2019 National Science Day (NSD)?

- A. Science for the People and the People for Science**
- B. Science for Nation Building
- C. Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future
- D. Science and Technology for Specially-Abled Persons
- ✓ The National Science Day (NSD) is observed every year on 28th of February to mark the discovery of Raman effect by Physicist C V Raman on 28th February, 1928. For his discovery, Sir CV Raman was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930.
- ✓ In honour of this discovery and as a mark of tribute to the scientist, National Science Day was marked for the first time on February 28, 1987. The purpose

of the day is to spread the message of importance of science and its application among the people.

- ✓ This year, the theme for the 2019 NSD is, 'Science for the People and the People for Science'. The Raman Effect is the inelastic scattering of a photon by molecules which are excited to higher energy levels. It forms the basis for Raman spectroscopy which is used by chemists and physicists to gain information about materials.

3. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of National Book Trust (NBT)?

- A. Govind Prasad Sharma**
- B. Mrinal Mitra
- C. Jagdish Joshi
- D. Suddhasattwa Basu

- ✓ The National Book Trust (NBT) has appointed educationist and author Govind Prasad Sharma as its new Chairman. Born in 1939, Sharma has served as the Principal of Government P.G. College, Madhya Pradesh. Later, he was appointed as the Additional Director of Higher Education (Gwalior Chambal Division) and has also been the Director of Madhya Pradesh Hindi Granth Akademi. He is the author of more than six academic books and several research papers, and has edited a few collected works.
- ✓ NBT is an autonomous organisation under the Department of Higher Education of Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD). The activities of the Trust include publishing, promotion of books and reading, promotion of Indian books abroad, assistance to authors and publishers, and promotion of children's literature.

4. Which of the following cricketers has officially received the knighthood at Buckingham Palace?

- A. Andrew Strauss
- B. Alastair Cook**
- C. Kevin Pietersen
- D. Andrew Flintoff
- ✓ On Feb 26, the former England opener Alastair Cook has officially received the knighthood for his

services to cricket by the Queen in an official ceremony at the Buckingham Palace. He is the first English cricketer to get the honour since Sir Ian Botham in 2007.

- ✓ Overall, Cook is the 11th Englishman to be knighted for services to cricket. Cook, who made his Test debut in 2006 against India, captained England for a record 59 Test matches and led the country to 24 wins in the longest format of the game. He has appeared in a total of 160 Tests for the national side. He retired from the Test cricket following the five-match series against India in September 2018.

5. Which of the following schemes has been launched by Union HRD ministry for providing industry apprenticeship opportunities?

- A. Param
- B. Shreyas
- C. Pariksha
- D. AdityaIn

- ✓ New Delhi, the Minister for Human Resources Development, Prakash Javadekar has launched the Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS) for providing industry apprenticeship opportunities to fresh graduates through the National Apprenticeship Promotional Scheme (NAPS).
- ✓ The aim of the program is to enhance the employability of Indian youth by providing 'on the job work exposure' and earning of stipend. SHREYAS is a programme basket comprising the initiatives of three central ministries, including the HRD, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

6. Chagos Islands, sometimes seen in news, is the bone of contention between which of the following countries?

- A. UK & Mauritius
- B. United States & Indonesia
- C. Japan & China
- D. South Korea & North Korea

- ✓ The International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague ruled that the United Kingdom must transfer the Chagos Islands (Diego Garcia) to Mauritius as they were not legally separated from the latter in 1965. It has ruled that continued British occupation of the remote Indian Ocean archipelago is illegal.
- ✓ In a non-binding opinion issued on 25th Feb 2019, the ICJ ruling deals a humiliating blow to the legitimacy of Britain's territorial claim over the Chagos islands, which they call the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT). The ruling is not legally binding.
- ✓ It must be noted that UK retained possession of the Chagos archipelago, which includes the strategic US airbase of Diego Garcia, after Mauritius gained its independence in 1968 & effectively paying Mauritius more than £4m for the islands. About 1,500 native islanders were deported so the largest island could be leased to the US for the airbase in 1971. They have never been allowed to return home.

7. What is the India's rank in The Facebook Inclusive Internet Index (3i) 2019?

- A. 54th
- B. 47th
- C. 68th
- D. 36th
- ✓ India has been ranked 47th out of 100 countries in the Inclusive Internet Index (3i) 2019, which is prepared by the 'Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) for Facebook.
- ✓ The list is topped by Sweden, followed by Singapore and the US. As per index, there are demonstrable benefits from comprehensive female e-inclusion policies, digital skills programmes and targets for women and girls to Study Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).
- ✓ This year, the index represented 94% of the world's population and 96% of global GDP. The study revealed stalled progress on closing the digital divide.

8. Who is the recipient of the 2019 META Lifetime Achievement Award?

A. Mahesh Elkunchwar

B. Vijaya Mehta

C. Girish Karnard

D. Arun Kakade

- ✓ Eminent Indian playwright Mahesh Elkunchwar has been chosen for the 2019 META Lifetime Achievement Award. He will be conferred upon with the award on March 12, along with the winners of the 14th Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META) festival.
- ✓ Elkunchwar is critically-acclaimed and widely-known for having experimented with a wide range of drama and is considered a powerful force in both Indian and Marathi theatre scene.
- ✓ He has over 30 plays and essays to his credit including works like 'Sultan', 'Holi', 'Garbo', 'Yatanaghar', and 'Atmakatha'. His 1985 play 'Wada Chirebandi' (Old Stone Mansion) has been staged in Marathi, Hindi and Bengali, besides being adapted for television.

9. Who has become the first Indian cricketer to cross 8,000 runs in T20s?

A. Rohit Sharma

B. Virat Kohli

C. Suresh Raina

D. MS Dhoni

- ✓ Suresh Raina has become the first Indian batsman to cross 8000 runs in T20 cricket. He achieved this feat when he scored 12 runs against Puducherry in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy at Delhi on Feb 25.
- ✓ With those 12 runs, Raina has now scored 8,001 from 300 T20s which consisted of 284 innings. It was incidentally his 300th T20.
- ✓ Beside this, Raina is the second Indian after MS Dhoni to have played 300 T20 matches. Apart from Raina, Virat Kohli (7833) and Rohit Sharma (7795) are the only other batsmen in the top 10 list of the highest run-getters in T20 cricket. Overall, Raina is the sixth highest with David Warner (8111 runs),

Shoaib Malik (8603), Kieron Pollard (8839), Brendon McCullum (9922) and Chris Gayle (12,298).

10. The National Institutes of Design (NID) has recently inaugurated in which of the following cities?

A. Lucknow & Bhubaneshwar

B. Bhopal & Jorhat

C. Jaipur & Shimla

D. Raipur & Hyderabad

- ✓ Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu inaugurated National Institutes of Design (NID) at Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh and Jorhat in Assam through video conference from New Delhi on 22nd February 2019.
- ✓ Both institutes are autonomous institutions under Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ✓ The establishment of new NIDs will help produce highly skilled manpower in design which, in turn, will create job opportunities, both direct and indirect, by providing sustainable design interventions for crafts, handloom, rural technology, small, medium and large-scale enterprises and outreach programs for capacity, capability and institution building.
- ✓ The National Design Policy 2007 had recommended setting up design institutes on the lines of NID Ahmedabad in other parts of India to promote design programs. Four new NIDs have been set up in Andhra Pradesh (Amaravati), Assam (Jorhat), Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal) and Haryana (Kurukshetra) with a total outlay of Rs. 434 crore.

Winmeen Current Affairs

1. Who has been conferred the Genome Valley Excellence Award at the BioAsia 2019?

- A. Jayesh Ranjan
 - B. Krishnamurthy Subramaniam
 - C. Don Cleveland**
 - D. Peter Lee
- ✓ The 16th edition of BioAsia was held at Hyderabad International Convention Centre at Madhapur from February 25 to 27 2019. It is the annual flagship event of the Government of Telangana and is focused on healthcare being re-imagined as a result of technological disruption.
 - ✓ Over 1,500 delegates from more than 50 countries participated in the Asia's largest Biotechnology and Life-sciences forum, which was organized with the theme "Life Sciences 4.0 – Disrupt the Disruption". In it, the Genome Valley Excellence Award 2019 was presented to Dr. Don W Cleveland of the University of California for his work in cancer genetics.

2. Which state government has launched 'Banglar Shiksha' portal to provide real-time data on schools?

- A. West Bengal**
 - B. Karnataka
 - C. Tripura
 - D. Nagaland
- ✓ The West Bengal government has launched 'Banglar Shiksha' portal to provide real-time data on state-run and aided schools. The portal, "Banglar Shiksha" (banglarshiksha.gov.in), will store real-time data of 1.5 crore students, 5 lakh teachers and 1 lakh schools.
 - ✓ It will be operated on a trial basis for two months to remove glitches, if any and will be fully functional by 1st May 2019. The system will enable the headmaster and class teacher to access the academic performance of a student. Parents, too, can access the information by downloading the Banglar Shiksha app.

3. What is the theme of the News18 Rising India Summit 2019?

- A. Beyond Politics: Fight for Right
 - B. Beyond Politics: Defining National Priorities**
 - C. Beyond Politics: Stand up Against Terrorism
 - D. Beyond Politics: Define Your Goal
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently addressed the Network-18 Rising India Summit 2019 in New Delhi and laid out his vision for a 'New India'. The theme of the summit was, 'Beyond Politics: Defining National Priorities'.
 - ✓ The summit is a News18 Network enterprise where newsmakers from the world of politics, governance, economics, sports and entertainment, and above all well-wishers of India, gather to discuss the country's rising global stature. It is a showcase of India's unbounded potential as well as a celebration of its significant achievements.

4. Which state has become the first state in India to introduce Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI) in the government sector?

- A. Odisha
 - B. Uttar Pradesh
 - C. Tamil Nadu**
 - D. Kerala
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has become the first State in India to introduce Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI) in the government sector to spread awareness on newer heart valve treatments without open surgery. TAVI was launched at the Tamil Nadu Government Multi Super Speciality Hospital (TNGMSSH), Omandurar Estate, in November 2018.
 - ✓ With the help of TAVI, two persons have undergone the procedure free of cost. Conventionally, an open heart surgery is performed for replacing the aortic valve for treating aortic stenosis. But not all patients such as the elderly are fit to undergo open heart surgery.
 - ✓ This is where TAVI helps as in this procedure the valve is replaced through a keyhole procedure from

the groin. The procedure costs Rs 20 lakh to Rs 25 lakh in the private sector, while it is done free in the government sector.

5. Southern Coast Railway (SCoR), which is in news recently, will be headquartered at which of the following cities?

- A. Hyderabad
- B. Visakhapatnam
- C. Amravati
- D. Kochi

- ✓ Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal has recently announced a new railway zone of the Indian Railways, named as Southern Coast Railway (SCoR). This new 18th railway zone of the country will be headquartered at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ The new zone will comprise the existing Guntakal, Guntur and Vijayawada divisions that currently fall under the South Central Railway (SCR).
- ✓ The cost of creating infrastructure for a new zone is more than Rs. 205 crore. The Indian Railways' operations are currently divided into 17 zones, which are further sub-divided into divisions, each having a divisional headquarter. There are a total of 73 divisions at present.

6. Which state government has launched a major water conservation scheme "Jalamrutha"?

- A. Arunachal Pradesh
- B. Assam
- C. Karnataka
- D. Mizoram

- ✓ Karnataka has launched a major water conservation scheme titled 'Jalamrutha', which focusses on drought-proofing measures, including protection and rejuvenation of water bodies. The state the largest swathe of drought-prone land in the country next only to Rajasthan.
- ✓ 'Jalamrutha' will deploy scientific approaches to water budgeting, water harvesting and water conservation through the use of geospatial data,

satellite imagery, topographical and geological data.

- ✓ It will be a community driven movement, which will be implemented by key line departments of the government, Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs), non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and private sector institutions. Water conservation strategy under this scheme comprises four components of water literacy, rejuvenation of waterbodies, creation of new waterbodies as well as development of watersheds and afforestation activities.
- ✓ It will operate on a four-tier institutional structure with planning and execution committees being set up at village, taluk, district and State levels.

7. Which state government has declared 2019 as the 'Year of Water'?

- A. Karnataka
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Haryana
- D. Maharashtra

- ✓ In Bangaluru, the Government of Karnataka has declared 2019 as the 'Year of Water (or Jalavarsha)' to emphasise the importance of water becoming a scarce commodity and the need to conserve it. The declaration will apply to all government departments.
- ✓ This initiative is expected to spread water literacy, focus on conservation, promotion of smart water usage and encourage green initiatives. A sum of Rs 500 crore and an additional `100 crore has been granted to implement the initiative, under which, over 14,000 water bodies across the state will be rejuvenated over the next two years.
- ✓ Under this movement, various activities and campaigns related to water conservation, protection and rejuvenation of waterbodies will be taken up through government departments; educational institutions and NGOs.

8. The Centre for Disability Sports will come up in which of the following cities?

- A. Bikaner
- B. Dehradun
- C. Pune

D. Gwalior

- ✓ The Union cabinet has recently approved a proposal for setting up the Centre for Disability Sports at Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh to benefit para-sports in the country. The centre will be built at an estimated cost of Rs 170.99 crore over a period of five years & will be registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- ✓ The centre will have a Governing Body comprising a maximum of 12 members, some of them experts from "National Level Sports Federations apart from experts in para games".
- ✓ The Section 30 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, requires the government to take measures to ensure "effective participation of Persons with Disabilities in sports activities which includes the provision of infrastructural facilities for sports activities for them".
- ✓ The upcoming centre was proposed in the budget of 2014-15. At present, no specialized sports training facilities for Divyangjan are available in the Country. Hence, this void is proposed to be filled up by setting up sports infrastructure so that persons with disabilities (Divyangjan) can undergo rigorous and specialized training in this Centre.

9. Which country is the venue of the 7th RCEP Inter-Sessional Ministerial Meeting?

- A. India
- B. Singapore
- C. Cambodia**
- D. Indonesia

- ✓ The 7th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Intersessional Ministerial Meeting (7th RCEP ISSL MM) will be held in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 2nd March 2019.
- ✓ The aim of the 16-member RCEP is to cover issues related to goods, services, investments, economic

and technical cooperation, competition and intellectual property rights. From India, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu will attend the meeting.

- ✓ The RCEP is a proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between 16 countries namely 10 countries of ASEAN (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) and their six FTA partners (also known as AFP's or ASEAN FTA Partners) namely Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea and New Zealand.

10. The Mainamati Maitree Exercise 2019 has recently conducted between India and which country?

- A. Myanmar
- B. Bangladesh**
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. China

- ✓ In Tripura, the joint border guarding exercise "Mainamati Maitree Exercise 2019" was held between the Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) as a part of 'Confidence Building Measures' between the two border guards.
- ✓ The exercise was named after the Mainamati hill range situated 8 km west of Comilla township in Bangladesh, which is home to an ancient Buddhist archaeological site in the region. The main purpose of this exercise was to plan and conduct anti-smuggling and anti-criminal activity related operations with an aim of achieving better joint operational efficiency and border management in the area.

Winmeen Current Affairs

1. The Supreme Court has recently pulled up which government to an act which allows construction in Aravalli hills?

- A. Gujarat
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Haryana
- D. Punjab

- ✓ On 1st of March 2019, the Supreme Court pulled up the Haryana government for passing amendments to an act which allows construction in the ecologically-sensitive Aravalli hills.
- ✓ A bench of Justices Arun Mishra and Deepak Gupta stated that the step will destroy the forest and it cannot be permitted. Terming the move as shocking, the bench asked the state not to take any further action on the law. It said that the Haryana government has taken the step despite the apex court's directive in this regard.
- ✓ On 27th Feb 2019, the state assembly had passed an amendment to the centuries-old Punjab Land Preservation Act, 1900 (PLPA) Act & opened up thousands of acres of land for real estate developers and for mining in the Aravallis and Shivalik ranges.
- ✓ The decision meant it would not only burden the already ecologically-fragile system, but would also pose a major environmental and ecological threat to the national capital region.

2. Which Indian sprinter has won the 10 km race of Nepal's Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Open Marathon and Run for Fun held in Kathmandu?

- A. Shashank Shekhar
- B. Anand Shetty
- C. Dharambir Singh
- D. RD Murgan

- ✓ India's Shashank Shekhar has won the 10 kilometre race of Nepal's Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Open Marathon and Run for Fun held in Kathmandu. Shekhar of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

Contingent at Embassy of India in Kathmandu secured first position.

- ✓ RD Murgan also from CISF got third place. A total nine CISF personnel participated in 10 KM race category. The remaining seven personnel also successfully completed run and received Certificate of Achievement. COAS Open Marathon and Run for Fun is an annual event organised by the Nepal Army.

3. RBI have signed a \$75 billion Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) with which country's central Bank?

- A. South Korea
- B. Japan
- C. Israel
- D. Indonesia

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Bank of Japan (BOJ) have signed a Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) for \$75 billion that will help in bringing greater stability in foreign exchange and capital markets in the country.
- ✓ The pact will enables both countries to swap their local currencies (i.e., either Japanese yen or Indian rupee) against US dollar for up to \$75 billion.
- ✓ The BSA was negotiated between India and Japan during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Tokyo on October 29, 2018. With this, India can access the agreed amount of \$75 billion for its domestic currency, for the purpose of maintaining an appropriate level of balance of payments or short-term liquidity.

4. Who has become the first-ever player to smash 500 sixes in international cricket?

- A. Virat Kohli
- B. Jos Buttler
- C. Chris Gayle
- D. Eoin Morgan

- ✓ West Indies opener Chris Gayle has become the first-ever player to smash 500 sixes in international cricket. He achieved this feat in the ongoing 5-match One Day International (ODI) series against England

at National Cricket Stadium in Grenada, West Indies on 27 February.

- ✓ However, Gayle's fireworks weren't enough to help his team cross the line as West Indies were bowled out for 389. They fell 29 runs short of England's 418/6, scored courtesy Jos Buttler's 150 and Eoin Morgan's 103 as well as half-centuries by Jonny Bairstow and Alex Hales.
- ✓ Earlier in the ongoing series, he had toppled Shahid Afridi to record the most number of sixes by any batsman in international cricket. Gayle, who will retire from ODIs after the 2019 Cricket World Cup, now has 506 sixes in international cricket (98 in Tests, 305 in ODIs and 103 in T20Is). He also breached 10,000-run mark in ODIs and become only the 2nd from West Indies after Brian Lara (10,405 runs) to achieve the milestone.

5. What is the theme of the 2019 Zero Discrimination Day (ZDD)?

- A. Live Up
- B. Speak loud for justice
- C. Act to change laws that Discriminate**
- D. A society free of discrimination
- ✓ The Zero Discrimination Day (ZDD) is observed every year on 1st of March to promote equality before the law and in practice throughout all of the member countries of the UN.
- ✓ The days aims to tell people that nobody should be differentiated based on their HIV status, age, sex, gender identity, race, ethnicity, language, geographical location or migrant status. The 2019 campaign 'Act to change laws that Discriminate' challenges people to act against laws that discriminate in their country.
- ✓ The campaign encourages people to ask themselves "What if ..." and to think about their own actions. For example: 'What if your neighbour had tuberculosis? Would you stop to chat?'

6. The Ministry of Textile has launched a programme for developing knitwear sector under which scheme?

- A. PowerJet India
- B. PowerMax India
- C. PowerTex India**
- D. PowerMat India
- ✓ On Feb 28, Union Minister for Textiles Smriti Zubin Irani launched a comprehensive programme for the development of knitting and knitwear sector in the country under the PowerTex India scheme in New Delhi. The total outlay for the knitwear scheme is Rs. 47.72 crore & would be in operation till March 31, 2020.
- ✓ The programme for knitting and knitwear units, catering to domestic and exports markets, has 8 components where the industries would get support to install machinery under group work shed scheme, buy yarn, go in for solar energy, have common facilities and create new service centres under public private partnership mode.
- ✓ The scheme envisages creation of new service centres on Public Private Partnership (PPP) model by industry and association in the knitting and knitwear clusters. Some of the major knitwear clusters in the country are Tiruppur, Ludhiana, Kanpur, and Kolkata.

7. Which of the following banks has been ranked first among public sector banks in the implementation of reforms agenda, as per latest BCG-IBA report?

- A. OBC
- B. SBI
- C. PNB**
- D. BoB
- ✓ The BCG-IBA report titled 'EASE Reforms for Public Sector Banks' has measured the performance of each Public Sector Bank (PSB) on 140 objective metrics across six themes, including customer responsiveness, credit off-take, and digitization.
- ✓ As per report, the Punjab National Bank (PNB) with a score of 78.4 out of 100 has been ranked first in the EASE (Enhanced Access & Service Excellence) index, followed by BoB (77.8), SBI (74.6), Oriental Bank of

Commerce (69), Canara Bank (67.5) and Syndicate Bank (67.1).

- ✓ PNB has shown strong performance in parameters such as customer responsiveness, responsible banking, credit off-take and financial inclusion.

8. Lignocellulosic biomass, sometimes seen in news, is composed of __?

- A. Cellulose
- B. Hemicellulose
- C. Lignin
- D. All of the above

- ✓ The Lignocellulosic biomass (or LC biomass) refers to plant biomass that is composed of carbohydrate polymers (cellulose, hemicellulose), and an aromatic polymer (lignin).
- ✓ It is the most abundantly available raw material on the Earth for the production of biofuels, mainly bio-ethanol. It is in news recently because the Union Cabinet has approved the "Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana" for providing financial support to Integrated Bioethanol Projects using lignocellulosic biomass and other renewable feedstock.
- ✓ It has been launched as a tool to create 2G Ethanol capacity in the country and attract investments in this new sector. The scheme focuses to incentivize 2G Ethanol sector and support this nascent industry by creating a suitable ecosystem for setting up commercial projects and increasing Research & Development in this area.
- ✓ The ethanol produced by the scheme beneficiaries will be mandatorily supplied to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to further enhance the blending percentage under Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme. The JI-VAN Yojana will be supported with total financial outlay of Rs.1969.50 crore for the period from 2018-19 to 2023-24.

9. Who is the head of the RBI task force on offshore rupee markets?

- A. Usha Thorat

- B. N S Vishwanathan
- C. Mahesh Kumar Jain
- D. Viral Acharya

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently constituted an 8-member task force headed by its former deputy governor Usha Thorat to examine issues related to offshore rupee markets and recommend policy measures to ensure the stability of the external value of the domestic currency.
- ✓ The task force will assess the causes behind the development of the offshore rupee market and study the effects of the offshore markets on the rupee exchange rate and market liquidity in the domestic market.
- ✓ It would also recommend measures to address concerns, if any, arising out of offshore rupee trading besides proposing measures to generate incentives for non-residents to access the domestic market. The panel would submit its report by the end of June 2019.

10. Which scheme has been launched by Union HRD ministry to fund science projects?

- A. SITAR
- B. STARE
- C. STARK
- D. STARS

- ✓ On the occasion of National Science Day (NSD-2019), the Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister, Prakash Javadekar launched Rs 250 Crore scheme 'STARS' to fund 500 science projects. The selection of these projects would be done on the basis of competitions.
- ✓ The project will be coordinated by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore. Interested candidates will have to submit applications to take part in the competition. The applications will release on the first week of April 2019. The acronym of STARS stands for "Scheme for Translational and Advanced Research".
- ✓ Beside this, the HRD Ministry in collaboration with the National Skill Ministry and Labour and

employment Ministry collaboratively launched SHREYAS – Scheme for Higher Education Youth for Apprenticeship and Skills to empower non-technical courses.

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1. Indo-Bangladesh joint military exercise 'Sampriti-2019' has started in which of the following locations?

- A. Tangail
- B. Hooghly
- C. Barguna
- D. Sylhet

- ✓ The 8th edition of joint military exercise 'Sampriti-2019' between the armies of India and Bangladesh has recently started at Bongobondhu Cantonment in Tangail, Bangladesh. The aim of the 14-day exercise is to increase mutual cooperation, bonhomie and camaraderie between the armies of two countries.
- ✓ The exercise is a part of the ongoing India-Bangladesh defence cooperation. The Bangladesh contingent was represented by 36 East Bengal Battalion, while Indian side was represented by 9th Battalion of the Rajputana Rifles.

2. Which country has officially shuttered its consulate in Jerusalem?

- A. Russia
- B. United States
- C. Japan
- D. China

- ✓ The United States has officially shuttered its consulate in Jerusalem & downgraded the status of its main diplomatic mission to the Palestinians by folding it into the U.S. Embassy to Israel. For decades, the consulate functioned as a de facto embassy to the Palestinians.
- ✓ Now, that outreach will be handled by a Palestinian affairs unit, under the command of the embassy. The symbolic shift hands authority over U.S. diplomatic channels with the West Bank and Gaza to Ambassador David Friedman, a longtime supporter and fundraiser for the West Bank settler movement and fierce critic of the Palestinian leadership.

- ✓ The downgrade is the latest in a string of divisive decisions by the Trump administration that have backed Israel and alienated the Palestinians, who say they have lost faith in the US administration's role as a neutral arbiter in peace process.

3. Which Indian wrestler has clinched gold in 65kg freestyle at the Dan Kolov-Nikol Petrov tournament in Bulgaria?

- A. Yogeshwar Dutt
- B. Sandeep Tomar
- C. Bajrang Punia
- D. Pawan Kumar

- ✓ Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia has won a gold medal in 65 kilogram freestyle at the Dan Kolov-Nikol Petrov tournament in Ruse, Bulgaria.
- ✓ He beat American Jordan Oliver 12-3 in the final & also secured the maximum ranking points from the tournament. This was Punia's 10th medal in as many international tournaments since the 2017 World Championships in Paris.
- ✓ Earlier, Pooja Dhanda claimed gold in women's 59 kg while Sarita Mor won a silver in the same weight category. Sakshi Malik won silver in 65 kg women's freestyle. In the men's freestyle events, Sandeep Tomar claimed silver in 61kg.

4. Who is the author of the book "Designing Destiny: The Heartfulness Way" ?

- A. Kamlesh Patel
- B. Bikram Choudhury
- C. Rajashree Choudhury
- D. Arunava Sinha

- ✓ The book titled "Designing Destiny: The Heartfulness Way" has been authored by Spiritual teacher Kamlesh Patel, who is popularly known as Daaji. He addressed key issues related to destiny and how it shapes one's life in his new book.
- ✓ The author provides practical wisdom on how to use heartfulness practices to refine lifestyle and design destiny, including destiny in the afterlife. He elaborates on the subject of consciousness, the role

of evolution, and explains what happens to people at the time of birth and death - and how people can act in those pivotal moments when life takes a turn.

- ✓ In the book, Daaji shares how beliefs determine the relative importance of fate and free will in people's lives. He also shares a set of simple heartfulness practices and lifestyle changes that can help people design their destiny. The author also explores the meditative practices in the light of destiny besides fundamental aspects of well-being, like healthy sleep patterns, heartfelt communication, eating patterns, living in tune with natural cycles and so on.

5. Kalashnikov rifle, sometimes seen in news, is associated with which country?

- A. United States
- B. Israel
- C. France
- D. Russia

- ✓ On March 3, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated an Indo-Russian joint venture (JV) that will manufacture the new 7.62x39 mm caliber Kalashnikov AK-203 rifle in Korwa near Amethi, Uttar Pradesh. The Indo-Russia Rifles Pvt Ltd is a joint venture between India's Ordnance factory and a Russian firm.
- ✓ It will produce the last series of Kalashnikov rifles in the Korwa Ordnance Factory. AK 203 is the latest derivative of the legendary AK-47 rifle. According to officials, the AK 203 guns would replace the existing India-made INSAS assault rifles in the Army, Air Force and Navy. It is to be noted that Amethi is the parliamentary constituency of Congress president Rahul Gandhi.

6. Who is the newly elected President of Senegal?

- A. Madicke Niang
- B. Macky Sall
- C. Idrissa Seck
- D. Ousmane Sonko

- ✓ Macky Sall has been re-elected for a second term as President of Senegal with a 58% majority in the first round voting in February 2019 Senegalese presidential election. The President of Senegal is elected using the two-round system; a candidate must receive over 50% of the vote to be elected in the first round.
- ✓ If no candidate crosses the threshold, a second round will be held with the top two candidates. According to the 2001 Constitution of Senegal, the president is elected for a 5-year term.

7. The Government of India (GoI) has recently declared which of the following time periods as the Year of construction technology?

- A. 2020-2021
- B. 2021-2022
- C. 2022-2023
- D. 2019-2020

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently addressed the Construction Technology India 2019 conference on 'Global Housing Technology Challenge', in New Delhi. Here, PM Modi declared the 2019-2020 as the Year of construction technology in a bid to increase the use of modern technology in the construction sector.
- ✓ The purpose of the 2-day conference was to identify innovative and globally established technologies that can be used in the Indian context. In the event, developers, academia, technology providers, researchers etc. participated.
- ✓ Those technologies which are identified during the conference will be invited to design and build lighthouse projects of around one thousand housing units each in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh.

8. Who has been appointed new Chairman of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)?

- A. Gegong Apang
- B. Suresh Mehta
- C. Bhagwan Lal Sahni

D. Bhagat Singh Koshyari

- ✓ Bhagwan Lal Sahni, a BJP leader from Bihar's Muzaffarpur, appointed new Chairman of the newly constituted National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).
- ✓ The NCBC was given constitutional status by Parliament in 2018, after repealing the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993.
- ✓ The NCBC which previously only could recommend on the issue of inclusion or exclusion of a community in the Central list of OBCs will now have the powers of a civil court as it has been given Constitutional status, on par with the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.

9. Which Indian cricketer has been appointed as the new Chairman of the ICC Cricket Committee?**A. Rahul Dravid****B. Anil Kumble****C. Saurav Ganguly****D. VVS Laxman**

- ✓ Anil Kumble, a former Indian captain of Tests and ODIs, has been reappointed as the Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Cricket Committee for the third consecutive time. This 3-year stint will end in 2021 and be his final term as the Chairman of the ICC Cricket Committee.
- ✓ He was appointed as the head of the panel in the year 2012 for his first term. Kumble was reappointed for his second term in the year 2016 which would keep him in office till 2018.
- ✓ The ICC Cricket Committee is representative of all stakeholders in the game, including players and umpires. It is empowered to make recommendations on cricket playing issues.

10. Which state disaster management authority has been honoured with the coveted SKOCH award 2018?**A. Andhra Pradesh****B. West Bengal****C. Tamil Nadu****D. Odisha**

- ✓ The Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) has been honoured with the coveted SKOCH award for 2018 for its remarkable achievements in the field of disaster management at the 56th SKOTCH Summit at New Delhi on February 25, 2019.
- ✓ The Skoch award covers the best efforts in the areas of finance, governance, banking, disaster management, technology, economics and inclusive growth.
- ✓ The OSDMA received an Order-of-merit in the Gold category for constructing 879 multipurpose cyclone and flood shelters that played a key role in saving human lives during Cyclone Phailin in 2013.
- ✓ It also bagged an 'Order-of-merit' in the silver category for constructing disaster resilient houses for about 17,000 Phailin affected families by relocating them to safer places.
- ✓ The 'Order-of-merit' Bronze was given to the OSDMA for its Early Warning Dissemination System for different hydro-meteorological disasters across the coastline of Odisha which will benefit 1,205 villages in 22 blocks of six coastal districts.

Winmeen Current Affairs

1. Vastral, from where PM launched 'Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan (PM-SYM) Yojana' is located in which state?

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Gujarat
- C. Odisha
- D. Maharashtra

- ✓ On March 5, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan (PM-SYM) Yojana at Vastral in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ✓ The national pension scheme for workers and labourers of unorganised sector was announced in the interim Budget 2019. It will provide monthly pension of Rs. 3000 to the employees of unorganised sector after 60 years of age. The scheme will benefit 10 crore workers in unorganised sector.

2. The terms NCMC, AFC and SWEEKAR, which were making news recently, are related to which of the following?

- A. Insurance
- B. Health care
- C. Mobility
- D. Pension

- ✓ On 4th March, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, which will function on the "One Nation One Card" model across the country.
- ✓ The NCMC is the India's first indigenously developed payment platform for transport that can be used to make payments across public transport anywhere in the country, including Metro, bus and suburban railways, for toll and parking, and for retail like any credit or debit card.
- ✓ The stored value on card supports offline transaction across all travel needs with minimal financial risk to involved stakeholders. The service area feature of this card supports operator specific applications e.g. monthly passes, season tickets etc.

- ✓ The card will address the challenges associated with the cash payment e.g. cash handling, revenue leakages, cash reconciliation etc. Beside this, PM Modi also launched an Automatic Fare-Collection system (AFC) called 'SWEEKAR', and a gate and card-reader system called 'SWAGAT'.
- ✓ The three together will enable the use of the national mobility card across the country without a conflict with existing Point-of-Sale (PoS) machines. The cards can be issued by all public and private banks the same way credit, debit, and prepaid cards are issued.

3. BOLD-QIT project, sometimes seen in news, has launched on which of the following borders of India?

- A. China
- B. Nepal
- C. Pakistan
- D. Bangladesh

- ✓ On 5th March, the Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the project BOLD-QIT (Border Electronically Dominated QRT Interception Technique) on India-Bangladesh border in Dhubri District of Assam.
- ✓ The project is a part of the Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS), which many countries including Israel have adopted to ensure proper border management. Hence, the implementation of the BOLD-QIT project will not only help Border Security Force (BSF) to curb all types of cross border crimes but also provide respite to the troops from round the clock human surveillance.
- ✓ Now, the entire span of River Brahmaputra has been covered with data network generated by Microwave communication, OFC Cables, DMR Communication, day and night surveillance Cameras and intrusion detection system.
- ✓ These modern gadgets provide feeds to BSF Control Rooms on the Border and enable BSF Quick Reaction Teams to thwart any possibility of Illegal Cross Border Crossing/ Crimes. The BSF is responsible for

safeguarding of over 4,000km long International Border with Bangladesh.

4. Which state government has recently banned molasses in the state?

A. Karnataka

B. Assam

C. Manipur

D. Tripura

- ✓ Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has recently ordered a ban on molasses in the state in the aftermath of the hooch tragedy in two districts - Golaghat and Jorhat - which claimed 158 lives.
- ✓ Molasses is an important component in making "sulai", an intoxicating drink widely consumed in the tea garden areas of Assam.

5. Who is the recipient of the first-ever Bhagwan Mahavir Ahimsa Puraskar?

A. Narendra Patni

B. Abhinandan Varthaman

C. Mangal Prabhat Lodha

D. Bhavarlal Hiralal Jain

- ✓ Indian Air Force Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman will be honoured with the first-ever 'Bhagwan Mahavir Ahimsa Puraskar', which is instituted by the Akhil Bharatiya Digambar Jain Mahasamiti.
- ✓ The award carries a cash prize of Rs 2.51 lakh, a memento and a citation and will be presented to Varthaman on 17th April 2019, coinciding with Mahavir Jayanti.
- ✓ In the ongoing India-Pakistan standoff, Varthaman was held for three days under captivity in Pakistan after his Mig-21 Bison aircraft was shot down in an aerial dogfight.
- ✓ He shot down a Pakistani Air Force F-16 before he was forced to eject and landed across the Line of Control (LoC). He was captured by Pakistan forces soon after and was released on March 1.

6. Which Indian organisation has launched a 'Yuva Vigyani Karyakram' for school children?

A. ISRO

B. CSIR

C. DRDO

D. BARC

- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched "Yuva Vigyani Karyakram (or Young Scientist Programme) for school children to be studying in the 9th standard.
- ✓ ISRO scientists will impart basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to the children to arouse their interest in emerging areas of Space activities.
- ✓ ISRO will conduct "Catch them young" residential training programme of around two weeks duration during summer holidays for these children.
- ✓ For this initiative, three students from each State and Union Territory, covering CBSE, ICSE and State syllabus will be selected. The selection is based on the academic performance and extracurricular activities. Students from the rural area have been given special weightage in the selection criteria.

7. Which Indian scientist has been conferred the Missile Systems Award 2019?

A. G Satheesh Reddy

B. Kailasavadivoo Sivan

C. Punit Goenka

D. S Somanath

- ✓ India's aerospace scientist and Chief of the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO), Dr. G Satheesh Reddy has been conferred the Missile Systems Award 2019 by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA).
- ✓ Satheesh is the first Indian to win the award, which recognises his leadership role in the Indian missile programme. He will share the prize with Rondell J. Wilson, a former Principal Engineering Fellow of Raytheon Missile Systems.
- ✓ Dr. Reddy, who is Scientific Adviser to the Defence Minister, is considered the architect of advanced

missile technologies and smart guided weapons technologies in India.

- ✓ As Project Director, he led the design and development of the India's first 1,000 kg class guided bomb which has enhanced precision strike capabilities. AIAA is the world's largest and reputed aerospace technical society.

8. Which of the following sports has been included in 2022 Asian Games?

A. Cricket

B. Paragliding

C. Pencak Silat

D. Roller sports

- ✓ The General Assembly of Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) has decided to include cricket in the sports programme in the 2022 edition of the Asian Games, which is scheduled to be held in Hangzhou, China.
- ✓ The last time cricket featured in the Asian Games was in the 2010 and 2014 edition but Team India opted out of the event on both the occasions citing hectic schedule. The 2010 and 2014 editions saw cricket being played in the twenty-20 format and that is likely to continue during the 2022 Asian Games in China.

9. What is the theme of the World Wildlife Day (WWD-2019)?

A. Listen to the young voices

B. Life Below Water: For people and planet

C. Big cats: predators under threat

D. The future of wildlife is in our hands

- ✓ The World Wildlife Day (WWD) is observed every year on 3rd of March to celebrate the many beautiful and varied forms of wild fauna & flora and to raise awareness of the multitude of benefits that conservation provides to people.
- ✓ The 2019 theme "Life Below Water: For people and planet" aims to "conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

10. Where is the headquarters of Tea Board of India?

A. Dispur

B. Agartala

C. Guwahati

D. Kolkata

- ✓ The Tea Board of India is a state agency of the Government of India (GoI) established to promote the cultivation, processing, and domestic trade as well as export of tea from India. It was established by the enactment of the Tea Act in 1953 with its headquarters in Kolkata.
- ✓ The Tea Board India is responsible for the assignment of certification numbers to exports of certain tea merchants. Recently, it is in news because the Union Ministry of Commerce has reappointed P K Bezbaruah as the chairman of Tea Board for a period of three years. Bezbaruah, the owner of Bokahola Tea Company in Assam, was earlier appointed as chairman of Tea Board as its first non-IAS officer.
- ✓ He was also instrumental in initiating a revamp of the old electronic auctioning system.

Winmeen Current Affairs

1. Which state government has launched Notun Disha initiative to provide training to teachers?

A. Nagaland

B. Tripura

C. Arunachal Pradesh

D. Mizoram

- ✓ The Tripura government has launched a one-month project - Notun Disha (new direction) to provide training to school teachers. In it, the state government has decided to distribute laptops to 800 school teachers to assess the level of students' development in different disciplines.
- ✓ Here, 800 teachers would be selected for the training, and selected NGOs, societies or educational institutions would provide them training. In February 2019, the state government held a survey to assess the educational status of students between third and eighth standard in government schools.
- ✓ The survey report has revealed that 60% of students (equal to 51,599) in the fifth standard cannot read Bengali language textbook from the second standard. Apart from this, as per the survey, 46% of the surveyed students cannot do subtraction and 81% students do not know how to solve division problems. Hence, the aim of the Notun Disha is to make the students efficient and capable in all subjects from the 3rd to 8th standard.

2. Hailakandi district, sometimes seen in news, is located in which of the following states?

A. Himachal Pradesh

B. Jharkhand

C. Assam

D. Odisha

- ✓ The government policy think tank, Niti Aayog has recently released Delta ranking report. In it, the Hailakandi district of Assam has been ranked first among the 112 aspirational districts of India, followed by Kondagaon district of Chhattisgarh.

- ✓ Hailakandi has made a giant leap from 52nd position to no. 1 position on the basis of its performance during November-December 2018 and January 2019. For securing the first rank as an aspirational district, Hailakandi will be given an allocation of Rs. 10 crore.

3. Which city has been adjudged cleanest city in Swachh Survekshan 2019?

A. Indore

B. Mysore

C. Raipur

D. Ahmedabad

- ✓ Indore has been adjudged India's cleanest city for the 3rd straight year in the central government's cleanliness survey 'Swachh Survekshan 2019'.
- ✓ The second and third positions in the category were grabbed by Ambikapur in Chhattisgarh and Mysore in Karnataka. The Swachh Survekshan awards 2019 were conferred by President Ram Nath Kovind at a function in New Delhi.
- ✓ Top ranked cities received a statue of Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi as award for their work towards cleanliness. Every year, cities and towns across India are awarded with the title of 'Swachh Cities' on the basis of their cleanliness and sanitation drive as a part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan that was launched in 2014.
- ✓ Three cities Indore, Bhopal and Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh bagged top awards. It was hat trick for Bhopal too. Bhopal was adjudged the cleanest capital city in the 2019 survey. Ujjain was awarded Cleanest Medium city in 3 lakh to one million category.
- ✓ While the New Delhi Municipal Council area was given the 'Cleanest Small City' award, Uttarakhand's Gauchar was adjudged the 'Best Ganga Town' in the central government survey. The 'Cleanest Big City' award has been bagged by Ahmedabad, while Raipur is the 'Fastest Moving Big City'.

4. Beresheet spacecraft, which is in news recently, is from which country?

- A. United States
- B. China
- C. Japan
- D. Israel

- ✓ The Israeli spacecraft "Beresheet" on its first-ever moon mission has recently sent its first selfie back to Earth. The image showing part of the Beresheet spacecraft with Earth in the background was beamed to mission control in Yehud, Israel -- 37,600 km away.
- ✓ Earlier, on 22nd February 2019, the Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) and NGO SpaceIL launched the unmanned spacecraft Beresheet from Cape Canaveral in Florida on 22nd February 2019.
- ✓ The 585-kg Beresheet (Genesis) spacecraft took off on a Falcon 9 rocket from the private US-based SpaceX company of entrepreneur Elon Musk. It is the Israel's first-ever moon mission that will measure the lunar magnetic field to help understanding of the moon's formation.
- ✓ So far, only Russia, the US and China have made the 239,000 mile (384,000km) journey and landed on the moon. For Israel, the landing itself is the main mission, but the spacecraft also carries a scientific instrument to measure the lunar magnetic field, which will help understanding of the moon's formation.
- ✓ It also carries a time capsule loaded with digital files containing a Bible, children's drawings, Israeli songs, the recollections of a Holocaust survivor and the Israeli flag.

5. Which international organization has signed \$250 million loan pact for NRETP to boost rural incomes in India?

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

- ✓ On 4th March 2019, the World Bank (WB) and the Government of India (GoI) has signed a \$250 million loan agreement for the National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP) to boost Rural Incomes across 13 States in India.
- ✓ The loan will help women in rural households develop viable enterprises for farm and non-farm products. The \$250-million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a 5-year grace period, and a final maturity of 20 years.
- ✓ The key focus of the NRETP will be to promote women-owned and women-led farm and non-farm enterprises across value chains; to enable them to build businesses that help them access finance, markets and networks; and to generate employment.
- ✓ The NRETP is an additional financing to the \$500-million National Rural Livelihoods Project (NRLP) approved by the World Bank in July 2011.
- ✓ The NRLP, which is currently being implemented across 13 states, 162 districts and 575 blocks, has so far mobilised more than 8.8 million women from poor rural households into 7.5 lakh Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

6. 'Azaadi ke Diwane Museum' has recently inaugurated in which of the following cities?

- A. Pune
 - B. New Delhi
 - C. Ahmedabad
 - D. Varanasi
- ✓ Union Minister Dr. Mahesh Sharma has recently inaugurated 'Azaadi Ke Diwane' museum at the Red Fort premises in New Delhi. The museum is dedicated to the unsung heroes of the country's freedom struggle and is built by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
 - ✓ It is a modern, state-of-the-art, informative and educational exhibition involving multi-sensory technology to engage the visitors. The 'Azaadi Ke Diwane' is the 5th in a series of recently

inaugurated ones — the others being the Subhash Chandra Bose and INA museum, the Yaad-e-Jallian museum, the Museum on 1857 (on the India's first war of Independence) and the Drishyakala (a museum on Indian Art) — on the sacrifices of India's freedom fighters.

7. Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, who has been re-elected as the new President of Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), is from which country?

- A. Kyrgyzstan
- B. Lebanon
- C. East Timor
- D. Kuwait

- ✓ Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, a Kuwaiti politician and sports administrator, has been re-elected president of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) for an 8th term despite being embroiled in a forgery case brought by Swiss investigators.
- ✓ Sheikh Ahmad is considered a major powerbroker in world sport & won a new five-year term until 2024. The OCA is a governing body of sports in Asia, currently with 45 member National Olympic Committees. The headquarters of the OCA is located at Kuwait City.

8. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has launched how many GPS stations across country?

- A. 24
- B. 35
- C. 22
- D. 19

- ✓ The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has launched 22 permanent Global Positioning System (GPS) stations across India to identify seismically hazardous zones and encourage mapping activities.
- ✓ The 22 GPS-Geodetic (pertaining to Geodesy, the science of earth measurement) observatories are located in Kolkata, Thiruvananthapuram, Jaipur, Pune, Dehradun, Chennai, Jabalpur, Bhubaneswar, Patna, Raipur, Bhopal, Chandigarh, Gandhinagar, Vishakhapatnam, Agartala, Itanagar, Mangalore,

Jammu, Lucknow, Nagpur, Shillong and Little Andaman.

- ✓ These stations are meant to delineate high strain zones for earthquake probability, determine a seismic motion on faults that may lead to a rupture and produce thematic maps with high positional accuracy.
- ✓ The new 13 stations will be located in Aizawl, Faridabad, Uttarkashi, Pithoragarh, Cooch Behar, Zavar, North Andaman, Middle Andaman, South Andaman, Ranchi, Mangalore, Imphal and Chitradurga.

9. Who has been appointed as the new DG of the National Archives of India (NAI)?

- A. P V Ramesh
- B. Girraj Prakash
- C. Prithvi Kumar
- D. Mahesh Sharma

- ✓ P Venkata Ramesh Babu, a 1985 batch IAS officer, has been appointed as the director-general of the National Archives of India (NAI). Prior to this post, he was CMD of Rural Electrification Corporation Limited.
- ✓ The NAI is a repository of the non-current records of the Government of India (GoI) and holds them in trust for the use of administrators and scholars. It functions as an Attached Office of the Department of Culture under the Ministry of Culture.

10. Which of the following countries has signed a 'New Delhi Declaration on Asian Rhinos 2019'?

- A. Malaysia
- B. Bhutan
- C. Indonesia
- D. All of the above

- ✓ 'The New Delhi Declaration on Asian Rhinos 2019' has recently signed by the five rhino range nations – India, Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia and Malaysia - for the conservation and protection of the species at the recently held 2nd Asian Rhino Range Countries meeting in New Delhi.

- ✓ The declaration was signed to conserve and review the population of the Greater one-horned, Javan and Sumatran rhinos every four years to reassess the need for joint actions to secure their future.
- ✓ The declaration includes undertaking studies on health issues of the rhinos, their potential diseases and taking necessary steps; collaborating and strengthening wildlife forensics for the purpose of investigation and strengthening of transboundary collaboration among India, Nepal and Bhutan for the conservation and protection of the Greater one-horned rhino.
- ✓ The meet was organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in collaboration with IUCN Asian Rhino Specialist Group, WWF- India and Aaranyak.

Winmeen Current Affairs

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

A. Google

B. Microsoft

C. Facebook

D. Infosys

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

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

A. Vishweshwar Bhat

B. Kapil Mishra

C. A K Patnaik

D. Bijal Vachharajani

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

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

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

A. Rajasthan

B. Madhya Pradesh

C. Jharkhand

D. Bihar

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

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

A. New Delhi

B. Pune

C. Chennai

D. Dehradun

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

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

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

D. Oman

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

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

- A. West Bengal
- B. Jharkhand

C. Assam

D. Andhra Pradesh

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

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

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

D. Thanga Darlong

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

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

A. Hewlett Packard

- B. Microsoft
- C. Google
- D. Wipro

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- A. 9**

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

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

Winmeen Current Affairs

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

A. International Criminal Court

B. Food and Agriculture Organization

C. UNIDO

D. World Bank

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

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

A. Roscosmos

B. NASA

C. ISRO

D. JAXA

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

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

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

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

A. Rajiv Kumar

B. Amitabh Kant

C. Suresh Mathur

D. Dinesh Arora

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A. Amitabh Kant

B. Rajiv Kumar

C. Subhash Chandra Garg

D. Sanjay Mitra

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

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

A. 80:20

B. 70:30

C. 90:10

D. 60:40

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

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

A. Russia

B. Japan

C. United States

D. France

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

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

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Winmeen Current Affairs

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

A. Kane Tanaka

B. Nabi Tajima

C. Violet Brown

D. Chiyo Miyako

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

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

A. Alok Srivastava

B. Tushar Mehta

C. Snehlata Shrivastava

D. Pramod Kumar Misra

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

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

A. Indra Mani Pandey

B. Desh Deepak Verma

C. Vinod Kumar Yadav

D. K. Vijay Raghavan

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

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

A. Taniya Bhatia

B. Krishna Kumari Kohli

C. Ravi Kalpana

D. Ekta Bisht

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Mukhyamantri Anchal Amrit Yojana" for anganwadi children .

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

Winmeen Current Affairs

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

[A] Kerala

[B] Odisha

[C] Karnataka

[D] Tamil Nadu

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

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

[A] Mylswamy Annadurai

[B] Subbiah Arunan

[C] Moumita Dutta

[D] Soumya Swaminathan

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

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

[A] INMAS, Delhi

[B] RDE, Dehradun

[C] DTRL, Delhi

[D] DRDL, Hyderabad

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

4. Kavinder Singh Bisht is associated with which sports?

[A] Wrestling

[B] Hockey

[C] Football

[D] Boxing

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

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

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

- [A] Rami Hamdallah
- [B] Salam Fayyad
- [C] Mahmoud Abbas

[D] Mohammad Shtayyeh

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[A] Peter Zumthor

[B] Arata Isozaki

[C] B V Doshi

[D] Shigeru Ban

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

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

[A] CERN

[B] ISRO

[C] NASA

[D] JAXA

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

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

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

[A] Sirsho Bandopadhyay

[B] Joy Goswami

[C] Shahabuddin Nagari

[D] Alokaranjan Dasgupta

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

Winmeen Current Affairs

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

[A] Nepal

[B] Japan

[C] India

[D] South Korea

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

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

[A] Science

[B] Journalism

[C] Sports

[D] Law

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

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

[A] Nepal

[B] Bangladesh

[C] India

[D] Sri Lanka

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

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

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

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

[A] Jharkhand

[B] Uttar Pradesh

[C] Rajasthan

[D] Madhya Pradesh

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

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

[A] Ministry of Defence

[B] Ministry of Railways

[C] Ministry of Law and Justice

[D] Ministry of Home Affairs

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

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

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

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

[A] NASA

[B] ISRO

[C] JAXA

[D] Roscosmos

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

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

[A] Massachusetts Institute of Technology

[B] Harvard University

[C] University of Oxford

[D] Stanford University

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

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

[A] Aditya Joshi

[B] Madhusudan Patidar

[C] Varsha Varman

[D] Namdev Tyagi

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

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

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

[A] Kidney Disease and Obesity

[B] Kidney Health for Everyone Everywhere

[C] Kidneys for Life – Stop Kidney Attack

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

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

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

[A] DIA

[B] DRDO

[C] BARC

[D] VSSC

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

Winmeen Current Affairs

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

[A] Saina Nehwal

[B] Dipa Karmakar

[C] Mithali Raj

[D] Mary Kom

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

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

[A] Saudi Arabia

[B] India

[C] Australia

[D] Pakistan

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

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

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

[A] Euclid

[B] Astro Sat

[C] IXPE

[D] Athena

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. Who is the recipient of Kusumagraj literature award?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- [A] Child Education
- [B] Sports

[C] Space Exploration

[D] Intellectual Property

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Winmeen Current Affairs

1. The Internet of Things (IoT) India Congress 2019 is scheduled to be held in which of the following cities?

- [A] Dehradun
- [B] Indore
- [C] Bengaluru
- [D] New Delhi

- ✓ The 4th edition of the Internet of Things (IoT) India Congress 2019 will be held in Bengaluru on August 22-23, 2019. The event will see digital technology leaders converge to discuss and explore business opportunities in mainstreaming IoT.
- ✓ It will include tracks on segments such as healthcare, manufacturing, telecom, smart cities, energy, retail, cyber security, skills and development, IoT Standards, legal and regulatory, and agriculture. The two-day Congress will host live zones and hackathons where people can touch, feel and experience IoT and solve sector-specific challenges.

2. Erode turmeric, which recently got GI tag, is associated to which of the following states?

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

- ✓ Erode turmeric (of Tamil Nadu) has finally got a Geographical Indication (GI) tag on 6th March 2019, which will help the farmers and traders from the region to claim sole rights over the famed 'Erode Manjal'.
- ✓ The Geographical Indication Registry of India granted the coveted status based on the application filed by 'Erode Manjal Vanigarkal Matrum Kidangu Urimaiyalargal Sangam'. The GI tag is granted to products that are special for a particular geographical area and prevents misuse of the popularity of the products by others.
- ✓ 'Erode Manjal' is famous across the globe. The cultivar is called Erode local, i.e., Chinnanadan. Erode turmeric is a rhizome, both finger and bulb obtained from the Erode local cultivar. The crop is

grown in hot moist conditions prevalent in the area with temperature ranging from 20 degrees to 37.9 degrees Celsius with an average of 600 to 800 mm rainfall in a year.

- ✓ The turmeric thrives best on the loamy or alluvial soils. Quality parameters of the turmeric included 2.5 to 4.5% of curcumin content, a golden yellow colour and resistance to pests after boiling.

3. Who heads the high-level committee of the Delhi government to reform higher education?

- [A] Ranjana Desai
- [B] Amit Sagar
- [C] Injeti Srinivas
- [D] Jasmine Shah

- ✓ The Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC) of the Delhi government has constituted a 17-member high-level committee to reform higher education in the capital.
- ✓ The committee, chaired by DDC vice-chairperson Jasmine Shah, will recommend goals, metrics, policies, and actionable plans for reforming Delhi's higher education system within a year. The DDC is the premier think-tank which advises the state government on key policy issues.
- ✓ Nalanda 2.0, a non-profit policy think tank with a "mission to making India's higher education system world class", is collaborating with the DDC as the knowledge partner in the initiative.

4. Upamanyu Dutta, who is in news recently, is associated to which of the following sports?

- [A] Wrestling
- [B] Carrom
- [C] Judo
- [D] Sailing

- ✓ Young Mumbai sailor Upamanyu Dutta bagged the bronze in the Laser Standard race for men in the Asian Open Laser Sailing Championship in Singapore.
- ✓ It is the India's first ever medal in the competitive single handed Laser Standard Category. Nethra Kumanan of Chennai achieved a creditable 4th position in the Laser Radial event for women.

5. Who has been appointed the new Chairman of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)?

[A] L S Prasad

[B] M R Kumar

[C] Vipin Anand

[D] Suseel Kumar

- ✓ M R Kumar has been appointed the new Chairman of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and will hold the post for a period of five years.
- ✓ Prior to this post, he was Zonal Manager (in-charge) of North Zone. LIC is the largest insurance company in India headquartered in Mumbai.
- ✓ It was founded in 1956 when the Parliament of India passed the Life Insurance of India Act that nationalised the private insurance industry in India.
- ✓ Over 245 insurance companies and provident societies were merged to create the state owned Life Insurance Corporation.

6. Jabel Al Akhdar Mountains, sometimes seen in news, is located in which of the following countries?

[A] Oman

[B] Iran

[C] Saudi Arabia

[D] Afghanistan

- ✓ Indo-Oman joint military exercise titled "Al Nagah III 2019" has started at Jabel regiment headquarters, Nizwa, in the Arab country.
- ✓ The exercise is scheduled to end on March 25 at Jabel Al Akhdar Mountains. The Omani contingent was represented by Jabel Regiment of the Royal Army of Oman (RAO) while the Indian side was represented by troops of the Garhwal Rifles Regiment.
- ✓ The Indian Army contingent is represented by four officers, nine junior commissioned officers and 47 other ranks. The aim of this exercise is to enhance interoperability in counter terrorist operations in semi urban mountainous terrain.

7. Which Asian country is hosting the Special Olympics World Summer Games 2019?

[A] Vietnam

[B] UAE

[C] India

[D] Indonesia

- ✓ The Special Olympics World Summer Games 2019 has started at Abu Dhabi in UAE on March 14. It is a multi-sport event for athletes with intellectual disabilities in the tradition of the Special Olympics movement. The event has already made history by welcoming a record-breaking 200 nations at the Games.
- ✓ Of the 200 nations, 195 will compete in the Games and five will observe. Held in the West Asia for the first time, 7,500 athletes will take part in 24 Olympic-style sports over seven days.
- ✓ With the highest number of women taking part and the largest number of Unified teammates on board, the World Games will capture the attention of the globe.
- ✓ More than 2,500 women will fly the flag for their nation, with almost half of them performing in athletics competitions. Saudi Arabia will send female athletes for the first time, with 14 women participating.

8. Which of the following organizations has decided to inject liquidity via forex swaps?

[A] IRDA

[B] NABARD

[C] RBI

[D] SEBI

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to inject rupee liquidity into the system through long-term foreign exchange buy/sell swap — a first-of-its-kind instrument used for liquidity management.
- ✓ The RBI would conduct dollar-rupee buy/sell swap auction of \$5 billion for tenor of 3 years on March 26 to inject rupee liquidity for longer duration. Under the buy/sell foreign exchange swap, a bank will sell US dollars to the RBI and simultaneously agree to buy the same amount of US dollars at the end of the swap period.
- ✓ The liquidity generated due to the buy/sell USD/INR swap auction could support credit growth and soften bond yields. The move is seen to lower the dependence on open market operations which have been a significant amount of the overall borrowing.
- ✓ According to RBI, the market participants would be required to place their bids in terms of the premium

that they are willing to pay to the Reserve Bank for the tenor of the swap, expressed in paisa terms up to two decimal places.

- ✓ The auction cut-off would be based on the premium. The auction would be a multiple-price based auction -- successful bids will get accepted at their respective quoted premium.

9. What is the India's rank in terms of highest number of impacted species in hotspots, as per recent study "Hotspots of human impact on threatened terrestrial vertebrates"?

[A] 16th

[B] 9th

[C] 11th

[D] 20th

- ✓ Recently, a study titled "Hotspots of human impact on threatened terrestrial vertebrates" published in the journal PLOS Biology has reported that human impacts on species occur across 84% of the earth's surface.
- ✓ A team of scientists led by James Allan (University of Queensland) found this when they mapped the distribution of 8 human activities — including hunting and conversion of natural habitats for agriculture — in areas occupied by 5,457 threatened birds, mammals and amphibians worldwide.
- ✓ Malaysia has been ranked first among the countries with the highest number of impacted species (125), followed by Brunei and Singapore. India ranks 16th in such human impacts, with 35 threatened species impacted on average.
- ✓ The Southeast Asian tropical forests including those in India's Western Ghats, Himalaya and north-east — are among the 'hotspots' of threatened species.
- ✓ These affected areas are also 'cool-spots' (the world's last refuges where high numbers of threatened species still persist). They could be result of protection or because of intact habitat.

10. United Kingdom has issued new 'black hole' coin in honour of which of the following renowned personalities?

[B] Charles Darwin

[C] Stephen Hawking

[D] Tim Berners-Lee

- ✓ The UK's Royal Mint has recently issued a new commemorative 50 pence coin inspired by the late legendary British physicist Stephen Hawking's seminal work on black holes.
- ✓ The coin was designed by British engraver and printmaker Edwina Ellis. The purpose of the commemorative coin is to celebrate the life and "ground-breaking" achievements of Hawking, who passed away in 2018.
- ✓ Hence, Hawking joined an elite group of scientists having appeared on coins—including Sir Isaac Newton and Charles Darwin.

[A] Isaac Newton

Winmeen Current Affairs

1. Sirsi Supari, which recently got GI tag, is associated to which of the following states?

[A] Himchal Pradesh

[B] Karnataka

[C] Jammu & Kashmir

[D] Andhra Pradesh

- ✓ Arecanut (also known as supari or betel nut) is the latest entrant in the list of agricultural produce with a Geographic Indication (GI) tag.
- ✓ The Registrar of Geographical Indications, under the Union government, accorded a GI tag to 'Sirsi Supari' grown in Sirsi, Siddpaur and Yellapur taluks of Uttara Kannada district in Karnataka. The Totagars' Cooperative Sale Society (TSS) Ltd, a Sirsi-based agri cooperative, is the registered proprietor of the GI 'Sirsi Supari'.
- ✓ The GI tag will guarantee the authenticity of arecanut grown in these taluks, and ensure a better market for 'Sirsi Supari'.
- ✓ The arecanut has unique features like a round and flattened coin shape, particular texture, taste. The total carbohydrates in 'Sirsi Supari' are 23% to 26%, total arecoline is 0.11% to 0.13%, total tannin content is 14.5% to 17.5%.
- ✓ 'Sirsi Supari' is used both as 'chali' (white arecanut) and red arecanut. The 'chali' variety is made by peeling the ripened nuts and sun drying them later.
- ✓ The red arecanut is produced by harvesting the tender nuts, then boiling and colouring them, then making them into different grades and finally sun drying them.

2. What is the theme of 2019 World Consumer Rights Day (WCRD)?

[A] Building a digital world consumers can trust

[B] Consumer Justice Now!

[C] Trusted Smart Products

[D] Making Digital Marketplaces Fairer

- ✓ The World Consumer Rights Day (WCRD) is observed every year on March 15 to promote the basic rights of all consumers and empower them. It also gives

people a chance to protest against the market abuses and social injustices.

- ✓ The day was inspired by former US President John F Kennedy, who was the first leader in the world to address the issue of consumer rights in a special message sent to the US Congress on 15th March 1962.
- ✓ The 2019 theme is 'Trusted Smart Products' has been chosen in view of the increased popularity of smart gadgets like smart phones to wearable fitness trackers, to voice-activated assistants and smart TVs.
- ✓ In India, we observe the National Consumer Day (NCD) on 24th of December every year.

3. Which of the following banks has launched doorstep banking service for senior citizens over 70 years of age and differently-abled customers?

[A] BoI

[B] PNB

[C] SBI

[D] BoB

- ✓ The State Bank of India (SBI) has launched doorstep banking service for senior citizens over 70 years of age, differently-abled customers and infirm customers, including visually-impaired customers.
- ✓ Eligible customers can avail this service at a nominal fee of Rs. 100 per transaction for financial transactions and Rs. 60 for non-financial transactions.
- ✓ The doorstep banking services are available to KYC-compliant account holders, with a valid mobile number registered with the bank and residing within 5km radius from their home branch. This service will not be available for accounts operated jointly, minor accounts, and accounts of non-personal nature.
- ✓ The list of specific services will include - Cash pickup & delivery, Cheque pickup, Cheque book requisition slip pickup, Delivery of drafts & Term deposit advice, Life certificate pick-up and Pickup of Form 15H for Income Tax purposes.

4. Through which telescope, astronomers have discovered 83 supermassive black holes 13 billion light-years away from Earth?

[A] Spektr-RG

[B] Astrosat

[C] Subaru

[D] Hitomi

- ✓ Astronomers from Japan, Taiwan, and Princeton University have discovered 83 quasars powered by supermassive black holes in the distant universe, which were formed when the universe was only 5% of its current age.
- ✓ These quasars are lying 13 billion light-years away from the Earth. The team used data taken with 'Hyper Suprime-Cam' (HSC) instrument, mounted on the Subaru Telescope of the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, which is located on the summit of Maunakea in Hawaii.
- ✓ This finding, published in The Astrophysical Journal, increases the number of black holes known at that epoch considerably, and reveals, for the first time, how common they are early in the universe's history.
- ✓ It also provides new insight into the effect of black holes on the physical state of gas in the early universe in its first billion years. Supermassive black holes, found at the centers of galaxies, can be millions or even billions of times more massive than the Sun.
- ✓ While they are prevalent today, it is unclear when they first formed, and how many existed in the distant early universe. A supermassive black hole becomes visible when gas accretes onto it, causing it to shine as a quasar.

5. Which of the following cities has topped the Mercer's 2019 Quality of Living Index?

[A] Auckland

[B] Zurich

[C] Vienna

[D] Munich

- ✓ The Austrian capital Vienna has topped the Mercer's index of most liveable cities for the 10th year in a row, followed by Zurich in Switzerland. In joint third place are Auckland, Munich and Vancouver. Luxembourg was the safest city in the world.
- ✓ In 105th place, Chennai ranks as the Asia-Pacific region's safest city, while Karachi (226) is the least safe. According to Mercer's 21st annual Quality of

Living Rankings, Hyderabad and Pune have been named the most liveable city in India with rank 143rd.

- ✓ New Delhi featured at the 162nd position on the list, Mumbai at 154 and Bengaluru at 149. The 21st edition of the annual survey evaluated 231 cities across the globe between September and November last year based on 39 factors including political stability, healthcare, education, crime, recreation and transport.
- ✓ This year, Mercer provided separate rankings for personal safety, analysing the cities' internal stability, crime levels, law enforcement and limitations on personal freedom. The ranking influences cities' abilities to attract business.

6. Which Indian entrepreneur has been honored with the 2019 Commonwealth Youth Award for the Asian region?

[A] Padmanaban Gopala

[B] Brahma Chellaney

[C] Ritesh Agarwal

[D] Sanjay Kumaran

- ✓ Padmanaban Gopala, a social entrepreneur from Tamil Nadu, has bestowed with the 2019 Commonwealth Youth Award for the Asian region at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London for his technology-based food rescue organisation.
- ✓ Gopalan, founder of No Food Waste, was named the winner of the award worth 3,000 pounds for his work towards achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of Zero Hunger with his innovative system of recovering excess food to distribute to those in need.
- ✓ Every year the Commonwealth Youth Awards for Excellence in Development Work celebrates the achievement of young people aged between 15 years and 29 years, whose projects serve the people and communities in their country and drive the progress to realize the different SDGs.

7. Greta Thunberg, who has been nominated for 2019 Nobel Peace Prize, is an environmental Activist of which country?

[A] Italy

[B] Sweden

[C] Germany

[D] France

- ✓ Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old Swedish environmental activist, has been nominated for 2019 Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts in climate activism and fighting global warming.
- ✓ Ms. Thunberg is the founder of the School Strike for Climate movement, which is a global, growing movement of students demanding more action from authorities regarding global warming and climate change.
- ✓ The movement began last year as a solo protest by Thunberg outside the Swedish Parliament building. She encouraged students to skip school to join protests demanding faster action on climate change.
- ✓ It has since grown, and on 15th March 2019, thousands of students from across continents skipped school and take part in protests. It is said to be the largest such protest.
- ✓ If she won, Thunberg would be the youngest person to become a Nobel peace prize laureate, a title Malala Yousafzai took as a 17-year-old in 2014 for her work on the right to education. The winner of the Nobel peace prize will be announced in October 2019.

8. Who won the men's singles title at the All England Open Badminton Championships 2019?

[A] Parupalli Kashyap

[B] Kento Momota

[C] Viktor Axelsen

[D] Srikanth Kidambi

- ✓ Kento Momota has become the first Japanese man to win the All England Open Badminton Championships when he beat Denmark's Viktor Axelsen 2-1 in the men's singles final at the Birmingham Arena.
- ✓ Beside this, Chen Yufei of China won the women's title by upsetting world No.1 Tai Tzu Ying of Taiwan in straight games, 21-17, 21-17.

9. The Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (FINE-2019) has started in which of the following cities?

[A] Gandhinagar

[B] New Delhi

[C] Hyderabad

[D] Bangaluru

- ✓ On 15th March, the Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (FINE-2019) has been inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ✓ The 4-day event would provide platform to the innovators for building the linkages with potential stakeholders whose support can improve their prospects in coming years for the larger social good.
- ✓ It will also help in promoting lateral learning and linkages among the innovators to enrich the ecosystem for new India. FINE is a unique initiative of the Office of the President of India to recognise, respect, showcase, reward innovations and to foster a supportive ecosystem for innovators.
- ✓ The festival is organised by the President's Secretariat in association with Department of Science and Technology (DST) and National Innovation Foundation (NIF).
- ✓ It is a celebration of country's innovation potential, particularly ideas stemming from grassroots and from creative communities in disadvantaged regions.

10. Africa-India Joint Field Training Exercise (AFINDEX-19) is being conducted in which of the following cities?

[A] Kochi

[B] Udaipur

[C] Dehradun

[D] Pune

- ✓ In Maharashtra, the 10-day long Africa-India Joint Field Training Exercise (AFINDEX-19) between the Indian Army and 16 African nations will be conducted in Pune from March 18 to 27.
- ✓ The purpose of the exercise is to train the participating contingents in Humanitarian Mine Assistance (HMA) and Peace Keeping Operations (PKO) under the United Nations Charter.
- ✓ In addition to the participating nations from the African continent, officers from Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Madagascar would attend the exercise as Observers. The joint exercise will cover the dynamics of raising a Mission headquarters, nuances of establishing military observer team sites in disturbed areas.

- ✓ The nuances of HMA being covered will include establishment and functioning of Mine Action Teams (MAC), identification and survey of contaminated areas and mechanical / manual demining techniques.
- ✓ The exercise is expected to greatly facilitate sharing of Indian Armed Forces experiences in United Nations Peace Keeping operations with countries in Africa and shall significantly enhance relations with the African continent.

Winmeen Current Affairs

1. Maate Mahadevi, who passed away recently, was the spiritual head of which of the following communities?

- [A] Shaktism
- [B] Vaishnavism
- [C] Lingayat
- [D] Smartism

- ✓ Maate Mahadevi (74), Head of Basava Dharma Peetha at Kudalasangama and a prominent Lingayat leader, has passed away in Bangalore, Karnataka on March 21, 2019.
- ✓ Installed as 'Jagadguru' in the 1970s, Maate Mahadevi launched several educational and religious institutions and published several books.
- ✓ She holds the 12th century woman poet Akka Mahadevi, who also wrote vachanas, as her role model. Beside this, she was at the forefront of the movement demanding separate religion status for the Lingayat community that erupted in the state in 2017-18 and had angered Veerashaiva seers and leaders.

2. Who has been appointed as mediator to resolve disputes of cricket administration in BCCI?

- [A] P S Narasimha
- [B] A M Spare
- [C] S A Bobde
- [D] D K Jain

- ✓ The Supreme Court of India (SCI) has appointed senior advocate P.S. Narasimha as mediator for resolving various disputes related to cricket administration in the country. Narsimha is also assisting the apex court as amicus curiae in the BCCI matter.
- ✓ A bench of Justices S.A. Bobde and A.M. Spare also asked Mr. Narasimha to look into the dispute relating to release of funds by the court appointed committee of administrators to various cricket associations.
- ✓ In addition, the Supreme Court has also directed that no Court or Tribunal in India shall entertain or proceed with any matter pertaining to BCCI or any State Cricket Association(s) till Narsimha submits

his report. Earlier, the apex court had appointed its former judge Justice (retd) D K Jain, as the first court-appointed ombudsman for Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

3. Which of the following cricket teams has won the 2019 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy?

- [A] Odisha
- [B] Maharashtra
- [C] Uttar Pradesh
- [D] Karnataka

- ✓ Karnataka has won the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy for the first time. In the final, they defeated Maharashtra by 8 wickets at the Holkar Cricket Stadium in Indore.
- ✓ With the win, Karnataka set a record of most number of wins in a row by an Indian domestic team as they won 14 T20 matches to lift the coveted T20 trophy.
- ✓ Karnataka also equaled Indian Premier League outfit Kolkata Knight Riders' record of 14 consecutive wins.

4. Irfan KT, who recently qualified for 2020 Tokyo Olympics, is associated with which sports?

- [A] Weightlifting
- [B] Racing
- [C] Wrestling
- [D] Boxing

- ✓ National record holder Irfan Kolothum Thodi has become the first Indian from athletics to qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics while finishing fourth in the 20 km event of the Asian Race Walking Championships at Nomi in Japan.
- ✓ Irfan clocked 1 hour 20 minutes and 57 seconds in the 20-kilometre walk to attain the standard qualifying mark for the Olympics.
- ✓ The fourth-place finishes also ensured a berth in the upcoming International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Championship in Doha that begins in September 2019.
- ✓ Two other Indian race walkers, who qualified for the World Championship are Devinder and Ganapati. Having qualified for Tokyo 2020, this will be Irfan's second Olympics having represented the country in 2012 London Games.

- ✓ The Olympics qualification period for race walk events and marathon race has begun from January 1 this year and will run till May 31, 2020.

5. Which IIT has signed a pact with C-DAC to build India's first state-of-the-art 1.3 PetaFlop High-Performance Computing facility?

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

- ✓ The IIT Kharagpur has signed a MoU with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) to set up India's first state-of-the-art 1.3 PetaFlop high performance computing facility and data center funded under the National Supercomputing Mission.
- ✓ PetaFlop is the measurement of computing power based on the frequency of mathematical calculations that can be done per second. This computing facility will provide large-scale computational support to the researchers, who are engaged in research activities in diverse areas of national importance.
- ✓ It will be used for specific challenge domains like cryptography, molecular dynamics, chemistry, drug discovery, artificial intelligence (AI) and data sciences.
- ✓ The facility is expected to come up in the next 3-4 months with the work to be carried in three phases of - 'assembling, assembling and manufacturing and design and manufacturing. C-DAC is a premier R&D organisation of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

6. Coorg Arabica Coffee, which recently got GI tag, is grown specifically in which district of Karnataka?

- [A] Belgaum
- [B] Chikmagalur
- [C] Kodagu
- [D] Bagalkot

- ✓ The Geographical Indications Registry has recently granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag to Coorg Arabica Coffee, Wayanad Robusta Coffee, Chikmagalur Arabica Coffee, Araku Valley Arabica Coffee and Bababudangiris Arabica Coffee.

- ✓ According to the GI application, Coorg Arabica Coffee is grown specifically in Kodagu district in Karnataka.
- ✓ As per the application petitions, Chikmagalur Arabica Coffee and Bababudangiris Arabica Coffee are both grown in Chikmagalur district, Karnataka which is also known as the birthplace of coffee in the country.
- ✓ Araku Valley Arabica Coffee, grown around Visakhapatnam district in Andhra Pradesh and Koraput district in Odisha, is light to medium in strength, has a pleasant acidity with a citrus note of grape fruit and a mild jaggery-like sweetness.
- ✓ As per the GI application for Wayanad Robusta Coffee, the flora of Wayanad is characteristic of the Western Ghats and the plantation crops grown in the cool climate.
- ✓ A GI tag is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation by virtue of their geographical association.
- ✓ The tag conveys an assurance of quality and distinctiveness which is essentially attributable to the geographical origin of the product. The owner of the GI tag has exclusive rights over the product.

7. Which country is host to the U-17 Women's World Cup in 2020?

- [A] France
- [B] South Korea
- [C] Spain
- [D] India

- ✓ International Football Federation (FIFA) President Gianni Infantino has recently announced that India will host the 7th edition of U-17 Women's World Cup in 2020.
- ✓ This will be the 2nd FIFA tournament India will be hosting, after the U-17 Men's World Cup in 2017.
- ✓ The Spain under-17 women's team is the defending champion, while North Korea has had most success in the competition with two titles.
- ✓ Japan in 2014, France in 2012 and South Korea in 2010 have been the other winners.

8. Who led the Indian delegation at the first BRICS Sherpa meeting under the Presidency of Brazil?

[A] T S Tirumurti

[B] Rajeev Topno

[C] Arvind Mayaram

[D] Rajive Kumar

- ✓ On March 15, the first-ever BRICS Sherpa meeting under the Presidency of Brazil concluded at Curitiba in Brazil.
- ✓ T S Tirumurti, Secretary (Economic Relations) in the MEA, led the Indian delegation at the 2-day meeting. During the meeting, India conveyed its support for the priority areas set out by Brazil, particularly to take forward BRICS cooperation on counter terrorism in a meaningful and concrete manner with BRICS member countries.
- ✓ New Delhi also underlined the need to take forward people-to-people cooperation and cooperation in science and technology and innovation and in health and traditional medicine.

9. West Nile fever, sometimes seen in news, is spread by _____?

[A] Bats

[B] Water

[C] Rats

[D] Mosquito

- ✓ The West Nile Virus (WNV) fever is a mosquito-borne viral infection, which is rare in India. It is a single-stranded RNA virus that causes West Nile fever.
- ✓ It is a member of the family Flaviviridae, specifically from the genus Flavivirus, which also contains the Zika virus, dengue virus, and yellow fever virus. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has stated that the WNV is transmitted to humans through bites from Culex mosquitoes which get infected when they feed on infected birds.
- ✓ The infection could be confirmed only if the second samples test positive. Hence, birds are the natural hosts of WNV.
- ✓ Symptoms include fever, headache, tiredness, and body aches, nausea, vomiting, occasionally with a skin rash on the trunk of the body, and swollen lymph glands. It is in news because a 7-year-old boy

from Kerala was recently diagnosed with the WNV fever.

- ✓ For this issue, the Union has dispatched a multi-disciplinary Central team from the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to assess the spread of WNV in Kerala.

10. Darryl D'Monte, who passed away recently, was the veteran personality in which field?

[A] Journalism

[B] Sports

[C] Science

[D] Law

- ✓ Darryl D'Monte (74), the senior journalist and environmental activist, has passed away in Mumbai on March 16, 2019. During his long career, D'Monte worked as the resident editor with leading media organisations such as 'The Times of India' and 'Indian Express' in Mumbai.
- ✓ He also wrote for websites and penned the book 'Ripping the Fabric' on the decline of cotton mills in Mumbai and the resulting challenges. He had also served as the chairperson of the Forum of Environmental Journalists of India (FEJI) and was the founder-president of the International Federation of Environmental Journalists (IFEJ) in Dresden, Germany, in 1993.

Winmeen Current Affairs

1. Who has been named as India's first anti-corruption ombudsman?

[A] Rachit Seth

[B] Aradhana Rathore

[C] P C Ghose

[D] Ashwini M Sripad

- ✓ Former Supreme Court judge and current member of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Pinaki Chandra Ghose has been named as the India's first Lokpal (anti-corruption ombudsman).
- ✓ The Lokpal Act, which was passed in 2013 after a nationwide anti-corruption movement, provides for setting up of Lokpal at the centre and Lokayuktas in the States to probe corruption complaints against top functionaries and public servants, including the Prime Minister and the Chief Ministers.
- ✓ Mr. Ghose was appointed as judge of the Calcutta High Court in 1997 and went on to become Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh before his elevation to the Supreme Court in 2013.

2. Which former ISRO scientist is the recipient of the 2019 Padma Bhushan?

[A] K. Radhakrishnan

[B] Nambi Narayanan

[C] Tapan Misra

[D] Nandini Harinath

- ✓ Former ISRO scientist, Nambi Narayanan has been conferred the 2019 Padma Bhushan by President Ram Nath Kovind.
- ✓ It is the third-highest civilian award in the Republic of India. He is best known for his role in developing the Vikas Engine which was used for the first PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) launched by India.
- ✓ The engine was used in the most historic missions of ISRO, such as the Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan.
- ✓ Narayanan, who was heading the cryogenic project at the ISRO, was falsely implicated in the ISRO spy scandal of 1994. He was accused of selling state secrets comprising confidential test data from rocket and satellite launches.

- ✓ He was arrested in December 1994 and charged with espionage. The Supreme Court later cleared him of all charges in 1998 and awarded him compensation in 2018.
- ✓ He had also played a critical role in the development of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) and in the initial phase of making cryogenic engines.

3. Soyuz spacecraft, sometimes seen in news, is associated with which country?

[A] Japan

[B] United States

[C] France

[D] Russia

- ✓ The Soyuz spacecraft carrying NASA astronauts Nick Hague and Christina Koch, and cosmonaut Alexey Ovchinin of Roscosmos has successfully docked to the International Space Station (ISS) from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.
- ✓ The crew members will spend more than six months conducting about 250 science investigations in fields such as biology, Earth science, human research, physical sciences, and technology development.
- ✓ The Soyuz (SAW-yooz) is a Russian spacecraft. It transports crews to the ISS and returns them to Earth after their missions. The crew rides in the part of the spacecraft called a capsule. Up to three astronauts or cosmonauts can ride in a Soyuz capsule.
- ✓ The Soyuz is like a lifeboat for the space station. At least one Soyuz is always docked at the space station. If there is an emergency, the station crew can use the Soyuz to return to Earth.

4. Which of the following international organizations has recently adopted resolutions on single-use plastics and sustainable nitrogen management?

[A] WHO

[B] UNEA

[C] UNICEF

[D] UNCTAD

- ✓ The 4th session of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) was held in Nairobi from 11th to 15th March 2019. In it, UNEA adopted two resolutions

piloted by India on single-use plastics and sustainable nitrogen management.

- ✓ The 2019 theme of the UNEA was Innovative Solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable production and consumption.
- ✓ In a significant first, the global nitrogen use efficiency is low, resulting in pollution by reactive nitrogen which threatens human health, eco system services, contributes to climate change and stratospheric ozone depletion.
- ✓ Only a small proportion of the plastics produced globally are recycled with most of it damaging the environment and aquatic bio-diversity.

5. The registration of political parties is governed by the provisions of which Section of the Representation of the People Act of 1951?

[A] Section 34A

[B] Section 29A

[C] Section 26A

[D] Section 30A

- ✓ The registration of political parties is governed by the provisions of Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act of 1951.
- ✓ A party seeking registration under the said Section with the Commission has to submit an application to the Commission within a period of 30 days following the date of its formation as per guidelines prescribed by the Election Commission of India (ECI) in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 324 of the ECI and Section 29A of the RPA Act of 1951.
- ✓ As per existing guidelines, the applicant association is inter-alia asked to publish proposed Name of the party in two national daily news papers and two local daily newspapers, on two days in same news papers, for inviting objections, if any, with regard to the proposed registration of the party before the Commission within a 30 days from such publication.

6. Chinmoy Roy, who passed away recently, was the veteran actor of which regional cinema?

[A] Odia

[B] Tamil

[C] Bengali

[D] Telugu

Winmeen.com

- ✓ Chinmoy Roy (79), the veteran Bengali actor, has passed away in Kolkata on March 18, 2019.
- ✓ Born in Kumilla district in present day Bangladesh in 1940, Roy had started his career in Bengali films in the 60s and became indispensable to the film makers for his portrayal of comic characters retaining the very essence of Bengaliness.
- ✓ He was equally noticed along with big names such as Soumitra Chatterjee and Rabi Ghosh in films like 'Basanta Bilap' and 'Dhonni Meye'. Roy was cast by Satyajit Ray in a small role in children's fantasy 'Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne'.
- ✓ He had immortalised the character of Tenyda in the film 'Charmurti' which became a major hit in the 1980s.

7. Which of the following banks have been designated as the RBI's list of D-SIBs?

[A] SBI, ICICI Bank and HDFC

[B] BoB, PNB and Axis Bank

[C] SBI, BoB and ICICI Bank

[D] PNB, Dena Bank and Axis Bank

- ✓ The State Bank of India (SBI), ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank would have to comply with additional capital requirement norms by 1st April 2019 as the banks continue to be in the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s list of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) for 2018.
- ✓ D-SIBs are required to maintain higher capital as compared to other banks. It means that these banks are too big to fail and failure of any of these banks will have cascading effect on Indian financial system.
- ✓ The D-SIB framework requires the RBI to disclose the names of banks designated as D-SIBs starting from 2015 and place these banks in appropriate buckets depending upon their Systemic Importance Scores (SISs).
- ✓ SIBs are subjected to higher levels of supervision so as to prevent disruption in financial services in the event of any failure.

8. Where is the headquarters of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)?

[A] Bhopal

[B] Dehradun

[C] Shimla

[D] New Delhi

- ✓ The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to prepare a noise pollution map and remedial action plan to solve the issue across the country.
- ✓ A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel directed the CPCB to identify noise pollution hotspots and categorise cities with specified hotspots and propose a remedial action plan within 3 months.
- ✓ It also directed state pollution control boards to undertake noise level monitoring in conjunction with police administration and take remedial action.
- ✓ The NGT further stated that the absence of implementation of noise pollution norms affects health of citizens, especially infants and senior citizens.
- ✓ It also affects sleep, comfort, studies and other legitimate activities. Additionally, the green panel suggested manufacturing of public address systems with equipment that can monitor the noise pollution parameters and alert authorities once the prescribed limits are crossed.
- ✓ The CPCB is a statutory organisation under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF). Its head office is located in New Delhi.

9. Which of the following states has started census of Otters?

[A] Andhra Pradesh

[B] Uttar Pradesh

[C] Rajasthan

[D] Madhya Pradesh

- ✓ For the first time, Uttar Pradesh has undertaken census of otters in its protected areas. The exercise that began in the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR) will be completed by the end of March 2019.
- ✓ Otters are an important part of the forest ecosystem. A thriving population of otters means a healthy river ecosystem. These mammals, listed in schedule II of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, are rarely seen due to their extremely shy nature.

- ✓ They feed on fish, bird eggs and small creatures like frogs. The den of an otter is known as holt and it is close to water bodies.
- ✓ The PTR is in the foothills of the Himalayas, south of Nepal. Covering an area of approximately 800 square kilometres, the reserve sprawls across parts of Pilibhit, Lakhimpur Kheri and Bahraich districts. With the Sharda and Ghaghara rivers encircling a considerable part of the reserve, it is rich in water bodies.
- ✓ The forests of PTR are home to tigers, leopards, elephants, different species of deer and monkeys and reptiles like snakes, mugger crocodiles and gharials.

10. Which Indian psychologist is the recipient of the 2019 Hans Kilian Award?

[A] Girishwar Misra

[B] Sudhir Kakar

[C] Ashis Nandy

[D] Kishor Phadke

- ✓ Indian psychologist, psychoanalyst and co-founder of the postcolonial theory, Prof. Ashis Nandy has been chosen for the prestigious 2019 Hans Kilian award for his efforts to adapt western traditions of thought such as psychoanalysis to non-western context.
- ✓ With this, he will become the first Asian to receive the prestigious award on May 9 at the Ruhr-University Bochum in Germany.
- ✓ The award is given to researchers whose outstanding scientific achievements provide insight into the historical and cultural existence of humankind and the constantly evolving human psyche.
- ✓ It was instituted by the Kohler Foundation in Germany and named after social psychologist and psychoanalyst Hans Kilian. It is awarded every two years and was first awarded in 2011. The prize includes 80,000 euros.

Winmeen Current Affairs

1. Which of the following ships has become the first-ever Coast Guard ship to visit Indonesia?

- [A] INS Mhadei
- [B] INS Sumitra
- [C] **INS Vijit**
- [D] INS Tarini

- ✓ Indian Coast Guard Ship 'INS Vijit' has become the first-ever Coast Guard ship to visit Indonesian port of Sabang on March 17, 2019. The ship is commanded by Comdt T Ashish (0532-J), who is a long Navigation Direction officer.
- ✓ The 4-day visit of INS Vijit highlighted the close proximity between the two countries and the strengthening cooperation in maritime security and safety. During its maiden voyage officers and crew of Vijit will hold interaction with officials of Bakamla (Indonesian Coast Guard), Indonesian Armed Forces and the civil administration at Sabang.
- ✓ It is the another step forward in implementation of "Shared Vision of Maritime Cooperation in the Indo Pacific". 'Vijit' meaning "Winner or Victorious" is the testimony of India's shipbuilding capabilities and the resolve of Govt of India to safeguard country's maritime interests.
- ✓ Earlier, in July 2018, Indian naval ship INS Sumitra visited Sabang and highlighted the maritime proximity between India and Indonesia.

2. Which IIT has tied up with ISRO for Space Technology Cell?

- [A] IIT Kanpur
- [B] IIT Madras
- [C] **IIT Roorkee**
- [D] IIT Bombay

- ✓ IIT Roorkee has signed a pact with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to set up an ISRO-IITR Space Technology Cell (STC).
- ✓ The ISRO – IITR Cell shall pursue advanced research in the areas of relevance to the future technological and programmatic needs of the Indian Space Programme and shall devote its resources including human resources to this effect.

- ✓ The activities of STC shall be directed to maximise the use of the research potential, infrastructure, expertise and experience that already exist in ISRO and IIT Roorkee.
- ✓ Its research facility will consist of faculty members, visiting scientists and experts, research personnel, technical, administrative and support staff.
- ✓ IIT Roorkee will be responsible for overall management of STC by providing required infrastructure, administrative and other support.

3. The 3rd edition of Namaste Thailand Festival (NTF-2019) was held in which of the following cities?

- [A] Gangtok
- [B] **New Delhi**
- [C] Imphal
- [D] Agartala

- ✓ The 3rd edition of Namaste Thailand Festival (NTF-2019) was held at Select Citywalk in New Delhi on March 15, 2019. The 3-day fest was organised by the Royal Thai Embassy with an aim to strengthen bilateral ties and increase cultural exchange between India and Thailand.
- ✓ The festival featured stage performances by Thai artistes including the much popular Thai folk-jazz band Asia-7.
- ✓ Along with the traditional Thai cuisines, the Namaste Thailand festival will feature a series of Thai craft activities including mulberry paper mini umbrella making, fan painting, body paint, and button badge making.

4. Who has become the youngest Indian woman to win on Ladies European Tour (LET)?

- [A] Sharmila Nicollet
- [B] Gursimar Badwal
- [C] Tvesa Malik
- [D] **Diksha Dagar**

- ✓ Diksha Dagar, an Indian female professional deaf golfer, has created history by becoming the youngest Indian woman to win on the Ladies European Tour (LET) at the age of 18 as she won the 2019 Investec South African Women's Open in Cape Town on 16th March.

- ✓ She also became the 2nd Indian woman golfer to win a title after Aditi Ashok.

5. Pramod Sawant, who took charge as new Goa CM, represents which constituency in the Goa Legislative Assembly?

[A] Sankhelim

[B] Panaji

[C] Fatorda

[D] Valpoi

- ✓ Pramod Sawant, the former Speaker of the Goa legislative Assembly and BJP MLA from Sankhelim in north Goa, has been sworn-in as the 11th Chief Minister of Goa.
- ✓ He was administered the oath of office and secrecy at the Raj Bhavan by Governor Mridula Sinha. He succeeded Manohar Parrikar, who died on March 17 after a prolonged battle with advanced pancreatic cancer.
- ✓ A six-time MLA and former Defence Minister, Mr Parrikar was born on 13th December 1955. He graduated from IIT Mumbai with a B.Tech degree in metallurgical engineering. Mr Parrikar was first elected to the Goa assembly in 1994.
- ✓ He served as Chief Minister of the state during October 2000 to February 2005; and March 2012 to November 2014.
- ✓ From November 2014 till March 2017, he served as the Union Defence Minister. Mr Parrikar returned to Goa in March 2017 as the State Chief Minister.
- ✓ The popular leader would be remembered for his efforts in infrastructure and education development in the state and bringing the International Film Festival of India to Goa in 2004.

6. Who is the author of the book "The Great Disappointment: How Narendra Modi Squandered a Unique Opportunity to Transform the Indian Economy"?

[A] Raghuram Rajan

[B] Amartya Sen

[C] Jayati Ghosh

[D] Salman Anees Soz

- ✓ The book titled "The Great Disappointment: How Narendra Modi Squandered a Unique Opportunity to Transform the Indian Economy" has been authored

by economic and political commentator Salman Anees Soz.

- ✓ The book claims that Demonetisation was a terrible idea and the government's own economic surveys have indicated that this move contributed to a slowdown in the economy.
- ✓ According to author, demonetisation was a self-goal by the Modi government. The book attempts to answer the overarching question of whether or not the Modi government transformed India's economy and what the next government's agenda should look like.
- ✓ The book is also a critical assessment of five years of the brand of economics Modi has championed, often referred to as 'Modinomics'.

7. Which of the following teams has won the Indian Super League (ISL) title?

[A] Mumbai City FC

[B] FC Goa

[C] Bengaluru FC

[D] Kerala Blasters

- ✓ Bengaluru FC won the 5th edition of the Indian Super League (ISL-2019) by defeating FC Goa 1-0 in the final at the Mumbai Football arena on 17th March 2019.
- ✓ It's their first-ever ISL title. The two teams were locked 0-0 after 90 minutes. Even the first extra time saw no goals but Bengaluru got better of a 10-men Goan team 1-0, 4 minutes from the end of the second extra half.
- ✓ In it, Bengaluru FC defender Rahul Bheke became the match winner for the team in the dying minutes of the final.

8. Which Indian author has won the 2019 Windham Campbell Prize?

[A] Rohinton Mistry

[B] Jerry Pinto

[C] Raghu Karnad

[D] Upamanyu Chatterjee

- ✓ Delhi-based Journalist and author, Raghu Karnad has won the 2019 Windham-Campbell Prize under non-fiction category for his debut book 'The Farthest Field: An Indian Story of the Second World War' in London.

- ✓ Hence, Karnad has become the 2nd Indian to receive the prestigious prize, since Jerry Pinto won it for his novel 'Em And The Big Hoom' in 2016.
- ✓ Karnad is one of the 8 winners chosen across four categories—fiction, non-fiction, drama and poetry— this year. Each of the eight winners won \$165,000 as prize money to support their writing.
- ✓ In terms of the award money, Windham-Campbell Prize is one of the richest literary awards worldwide. The Windham-Campbell Prize was established in 2013 by writer Donald Windham to honour his late partner Sandy Campbell.
- ✓ It is now co-presented by the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University.

9. The joint military exercise "Sary Arka Antiterror 2019" is scheduled to be held in which of the following countries?

[A] Kazakhstan

[B] Uzbekistan

[C] Kyrgyzstan

[D] Tajikistan

- ✓ The first-ever joint military exercise of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) titled "Sary Arka Antiterror 2019" is scheduled to be held in grasslands of Kazakhstan in the Sary Arka region.
- ✓ The decision to hold the joint exercise 'Sary-Arka-Antiterror 2019' was announced during the 34th meeting of the SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) council held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The SCO, in which China plays an influential role, is also comprised of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan. India and Pakistan were admitted into the bloc in 2017.
- ✓ Delegations of the competent authorities of India, Kazakhstan, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and the RATS Executive Committee attended the meeting. RATS is a permanent organ of the SCO which serves to promote cooperation of member states against the three evils of terrorism, separatism and extremism.
- ✓ It is headquartered in Tashkent. The next meeting of the Council of the RATS SCO is scheduled to be held in Russia in September 2019.

10. Which state election department has launched an initiative 'i-help' to promote digital electoral literacy?

[A] Assam

[B] Maharashtra

[C] Tamil Nadu

[D] Karnataka

- ✓ Assam Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Mukesh Sahu has launched an initiative 'i-help' to promote digital electoral literacy in view of the forthcoming Lok Sabha poll.
- ✓ The 'i-help' is a joint initiative of the office of the Assam CEO and Common Service Centres (CSC). This particular initiative will fill the digital divide and fulfill the objective of turning the General Election more inclusive and participatory.
- ✓ The CSCs are internet-enabled access points spread throughout the country delivering various government and non-government digital services to the citizens and is uniquely positioned in rural areas to significantly extend the awareness and outreach activities of CEO, Assam.
- ✓ The entire programme is being launched under the Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) in the state and it is geared to ensure that no voter is left behind.
- ✓ The voting in Assam will take place at 28,143 polling stations in three phases on April 11, 18 and 23.

Winmeen Current Affairs

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

[A] Laxmi Narayan Tripathi

[B] K Prithika Yashini

[C] Madhu Bai Kinnar

[D] Gauri Sawant

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

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

[A] John Nash

[B] Karen Uhlenbeck

[C] Robert Langlands

[D] Jacques Tits

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

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

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

[A] China

[B] United States

[C] Japan

[D] India

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

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

- [A] Save Sparrows
- [B] Protect House Sparrows

[C] **I Love Sparrows**

- [D] Sparrows: Heroes of the Environment

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

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

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

[D] **Italy**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Winmeen Current Affairs

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

[A] Forests and Energy

[B] Forests and Education

[C] Forests and Sustainable Cities

[D] Forests and Life

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

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

[A] Leeladhar Jagudi

[B] Surendra Verma

[C] Mamta Kalia

[D] Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari

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

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

[A] Myanmar

[B] Bhutan

[C] India

[D] Nepal

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

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

[A] Russia

[B] France

[C] Germany

[D] United States

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

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

[A] India

[B] United States

[C] Russia

[D] France

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[A] IIT Bombay

[B] IIT Madras

[C] IIT Kanpur

[D] IIT Indore

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

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

[A] March 22

[B] March 23

[C] March 21

[D] March 20

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

Winmeen Current Affairs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[A] 6.9%

[B] 6.8%

[C] 6.6%

[D] 6.5%

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

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

[A] Tata

[B] Reliance

[C] Wipro

[D] Infosys

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

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

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

[A] Manpreet Singh

[B] Sandeep Singh

[C] Sardar Singh

[D] Dilip Tirkey

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

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

[A] Meghalaya

[B] Arunachal Pradesh

[C] Assam

[D] Odisha

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Winmeen Current Affairs

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

[A] Nandan Nilekani

[B] Shaktikanta Das

[C] Viral Acharya

[D] BP Kanungo

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

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

[A] 78th

[B] 76th

[C] 79th

[D] 74th

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

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

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

[A] Hotter, drier, wetter

[B] Understanding Clouds

[C] Climate Ready, Climate-Smart

[D] The Sun, the Earth and the weather

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

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

[A] India

[B] Australia

[C] Japan

[D] China

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[D] Chess

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

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

[A] United Kingdom

[B] Germany

[C] France

[D] Italy

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

9. Which Indian organisation has organized FinTech Conclave 2019?

[A] SEBI

[B] Ministry of Finance

[C] NITI Aayog

[D] RBI

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

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

[A] Indonesia

[B] Vietnam

[C] Malaysia

[D] Myanmar

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

Winmeen Current Affairs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[A] UAE

[B] Pakistan

[C] Bangladesh

[D] Myanmar

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

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

[A] Andria Zafirakou

[B] Hanan Al Hroub

[C] Nancie Atwell

[D] Peter Tabichi

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

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

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

[A] Satellite

[B] Super computer

[C] Nuclear Training facility

[D] Military exercise

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

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

[A] UAE

[B] Oman

[C] Iran

[D] Pakistan

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

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

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

[A] India

[B] Japan

[C] China

[D] South Korea

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

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

[A] Chengalraya Naidu

[B] Ralin de Souza

[C] Jugraj Singh

[D] K Govindaraj

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

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

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

Winmeen Current Affairs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[A] Basketball

[B] Cricket

[C] Football

[D] Hockey

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

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

[A] Facebook

[B] Microsoft

[C] Infosys

[D] Twitter

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

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

[A] Karnataka

[B] Andhra Pradesh

[C] Kerala

[D] Maharashtra

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

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

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Winmeen Current Affairs

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

[A] Pradeep Kumar

[B] D K Jain

[C] **K T Joshi**

[D] Dipak Misra

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

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

[A] Yann LeCun

[B] Geoffrey Hinton

[C] Yoshua Bengio

[D] **All of the above**

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

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

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

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

[A] **Assam**

[B] Odisha

[C] Jharkhand

[D] West Bengal

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

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

[A] Jammu & Kashmir

[B] Arunachal Pradesh

[C] **Himachal Pradesh**

[D] Sikkim

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[D] WMO

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[B] Women and Slavery

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

[D] Breaking the Silence, Lest We Forget

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

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

[A] Nepal

[B] Pakistan

[C] Sri Lanka

[D] Myanmar

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

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

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

[A] Sport climbing

[B] Break dancing

[C] Skate boarding

[D] All of the above

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

Winmeen Current Affairs

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

[A] Kerala

[B] Assam

[C] Bihar

[D] West Bengal

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

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

[A] World Bank

[B] ADB

[C] UNSC

[D] AIIB

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

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

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

[A] All India Tennis Association

[B] All India Football Federation

[C] National Rifle Association of India

[D] Badminton Association of India

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

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

[A] Amartya Sen

[B] Raghuram Rajan

[C] Manmohan Singh

[D] Arvind Subramanian

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

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

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

- [A] D. P. Chattopadhyaya
- [B] Anand Kumar
- [C] **Manu Gulati**
- [D] Ram Puniyani

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

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

- [A] **Israel**
- [B] Iran
- [C] Australia
- [D] Brazil

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

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

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

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

- [A] Chennai
- [B] Kolkata
- [C] Kochi
- [D] **Mumbai**

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

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

[A] RBI

[B] SEBI

[C] Ministry of Finance

[D] IRDA

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

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

[A] Jaipur

[B] Delhi

[C] Gwalior

[D] Vijayawada

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

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

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

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

[A] Urjit Patel

[B] Rajiv Mehrishi

[C] Y V Reddy

[D] Nripendra Misra

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