Current Affairs

27th Mar 2019

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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 selfdefence. 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 strikerate of 138.15 including 35 fifties and one hundred.

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

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Current Affairs

27th Mar 2019

[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.

Current Affairs

27th Mar 2019

- ✓ 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

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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.