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# Current Affairs



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## Winmeen Current Affairs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

temperatures towards increasingly dangerous levels.

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

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

[A] Facebook

[B] Twitter

[C] Alphabet

[D] Tumblr

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

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

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

[A] Sugarcane

[B] Coffee

[C] Tea

[D] Cotton

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

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

[A] Narendra Modi

[B] Ram Nath Kovind

[C] Sushma Swaraj

[D] Arun Jaitley

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



development of state relations between Croatia and their respective countries.

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

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

[A] March 26

[B] **March 25**

[C] March 27

[D] March 29

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

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

[A] Ravinder Singh

[B] Durjoy Datta

[C] **Bhabhani Bhattacharya**

[D] Amit Chaudhuri

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

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

[A] Kempegowda International Airport

[B] **Indira Gandhi International Airport**

[C] Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport

[D] Rajiv Gandhi International Airport

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

## Winmeen Current Affairs

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

[A] Prathap C. Reddy

[B] Ramesh Mehta

[C] **Rajendra Joshi**

[D] Kamal Karanth

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

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

[A] Adriana Karembeu

[B] **Zuzana Caputova**

[C] Kristina Farkasova

[D] Apollonia Vanova

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

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

[A] **Roger Federer**

[B] John Isner

[C] Novak Djokovic

[D] Kei Nishikori

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

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

[A] PSLV-C44

[B] PSLV-C46

[C] PSLV-C47

[D] **PSLV-C45**

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

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

[A] Poland

[B] **South Korea**

[C] India

[D] Japan

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

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

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

[A] Cochin Shipyard

[B] GRSE

[C] Mazagon Dock

[D] Goa Shipyard

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

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

[A] #GiveBack

[B] #Save Earth

[C] #NatureCallingYou

[D] #Connect2Earth

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

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

[A] Cauvery

[B] Narmada

[C] Ganga

[D] Brahmaputra

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

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

[A] IIT Indore

[B] IIT Kanpur

[C] IIT Madras

[D] IIT Bombay

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

binaphthyl-stabilised platinum nanoparticles (Pt-BNP).

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

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

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

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

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

[A] Puja Mehra

[B] Chander Shekhar

[C] Rohan Sharma

[D] Mihir Sen

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

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

[A] Raju Baraiya

[B] Subodh Gupta

[C] Bharti Kher

[D] Shilpa Gupta

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

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

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

[A] Tamil

[B] Telugu

[C] Malayalam

[D] Kannada

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

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

[A] IIT Bombay

[B] IIT Kharagpur

[C] IIT Delhi

[D] IIT Madras

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwest Sichuan Province.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

of Kandhamal population) are engaged in growing the variety.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Winmeen Current Affairs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

as chief of staff under former President Barack Obama.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

[A] India

[B] China

[C] Japan

[D] South Korea

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

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

[A] Mizoram

[B] Nagaland

[C] Manipur

[D] Odisha

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

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

## Winmeen Current Affairs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Winmeen Current Affairs

## 1. Which city is the venue of the National Cardiology Conference 2019?

[A] Lucknow

[B] New Delhi

[C] Mumbai

[D] Chennai

- ✓ On April 5, Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the National Cardiology Conference 2019 at Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of medical sciences in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ The 3-day conference will be organized by Dept of Cardiology in which leading national and international experts from Europe, USA, Japan, Singapore South Korea, Indonesia and Australia will deliberate on the latest topics of Interventional cardiology and cutting edge technology.
- ✓ The conference being held for the first time in Uttar Pradesh offers an opportunity to showcase newer innovations in Cardiology that can help deliver cost-effective cardiology care to patients.

## 2. The Nepal-India Franchise Investment Expo and Conclave will be held in which of the following cities?

[A] Hyderabad

[B] Kathmandu

[C] New Delhi

[D] Pune

- ✓ The Nepal-India Franchise Investment Expo and Conclave will be held in Kathmandu from 15th to 16th May, 2019.
- ✓ The event primarily focuses on building the relations between India and Nepal through entrepreneurship development. The conclave is organised by Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FNCCI) in association with Embassy of India and Franchise India.
- ✓ The event is expected to introduce new investment opportunities to Nepalese market. According to Indian Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri the summit will help in bringing the leading Indian iconic brands to Nepal.

- ✓ Their entry would not only bring investment into Nepal but also technology transfers and business know how. According to organizers 250 businesspersons and investors will attend the conclave and more than 1000 prospective franchisees and investors are expected to visit the expo.

## 3. The scientists of which country have discovered a possible "death switch" mechanism in plant's immune system?

[A] China

[B] India

[C] Japan

[D] South Korea

- ✓ Chinese scientists have discovered a possible "death switch" mechanism in plant's immune system that triggers infected cells to self-destruct, thus limiting the spread of the disease and keeping other parts of the plant healthy. This is as per the findings published in the journal 'Science'.
- ✓ The discovery provides clues to cell death control and immunity for plants. The researchers hope further research can lead to a new generation of disease-resistant crops that use significantly less pesticide and are more environmentally friendly.
- ✓ The research was done by scientists from Tsinghua University and the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Institute of Genetics and Development Biology. The 'death switch' is usually harmless to the plant because it only affects diseased cells, which are a tiny portion of the entire plant.

## 4. The world's first 5G phone has recently released in which of the following countries?

[A] South Korea

[B] Malaysia

[C] United States

[D] Denmark

- ✓ On April 5, Telecom giant Samsung Electronics released the Galaxy S10 5G in South Korea. It is the world's first available smartphone with built-in fifth-generation communications.
- ✓ Earlier, South Korea became the first country to roll out a super-fast 5G mobile network nationwide,

which allows users to download entire movies almost instantaneously.

- ✓ Three South Korean carriers – SK Telecom, KT and LG Uplus – held launch events across Seoul for the Galaxy S10, whose base version costs 1.39 million won (\$1,200). Thus, commercializing 5G gives South Korea the chance to build around the technology, which is crucial for the future development of devices such as autonomous vehicles and the Internet of Things (IoT).

#### 5. Who is the newly appointed Managing Director of LIC?

[A] Nishant Patil

[B] Vipin Anand Monday

[C] Varsha Sharma

[D] Puneet Jain

- ✓ Vipin Anand Monday has recently taken charge as the new Managing Director (MD) of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). Prior to this, he was in charge of LIC's western zone, comprising of 23 divisions, covering the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa and Union Territories of Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli.
- ✓ During his service of more than 35 years, Anand has handled several important assignments in various capacities and departments. He was instrumental in setting up LIC's operations in Singapore and Bangladesh.

#### 6. What is the theme of the 56th National Maritime Day (NMD-2019)?

[A] Indian Ocean-Safe Ocean

[B] Indian Ocean-An Ocean of opportunity

[C] Indian Ocean-Save Aquatic Animals

[D] Indian Ocean-Clean Water, Clean Life

- ✓ The National Maritime Day (NMD) of India is celebrated every year on April 5 to spread awareness in supporting intercontinental commerce and the global economy. On this day, in 1919, navigation history was created when SS Loyalty, the first ship of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company, journeyed to the United Kingdom.
- ✓ It was a crucial step for Indian shipping history when sea routes were controlled by the British. The

theme of the 56th edition of the NMD 2019 is "Indian Ocean-An Ocean of opportunity".

- ✓ According to the Directorate General of Shipping, India now has 43 shipping companies owning 1,401 ships with a combined 12.69 million gross tonnage' as of December 2018.

#### 7. Indian scientists at which organisation have discovered a new enzyme "Murein Endopeptidase" to break the bacterial cell wall?

[A] IIT Delhi

[B] CCMB

[C] DRDO

[D] BARC

- ✓ Scientists at the Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology (CCMB) have discovered a new enzyme 'Murein Endopeptidase' which helps in breaking cell walls of bacteria.
- ✓ This discovery offers a potential for a new drug delivery route to arrest the anti-bacterial resistance through existing antibiotic drugs. Hence, it opens up fresh ways to target microbes, leading to a new wave of antibiotic drugs.
- ✓ The man behind this discovery is Pavan Kumar Chodiseti, research student and his mentor Dr Manjula Reddy. Antibiotics are medicines used to prevent and treat bacterial infections. The findings have been published in the latest issue of Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences, USA

#### 8. Which railway station has become the India's first-ever railway station to get green ISO certification?

[A] Delhi

[B] Hyderabad

[C] Guwahati

[D] Bhopal

- ✓ The Guwahati Railway Station has become the first station in India to obtain the ISO 14001: 2015 certification for implementation of environment management system by carrying out directives issued by the National Green Tribunal (NGT).
- ✓ The station also has amenities such as High-class reserve (VIP) lounge, waiting rooms, AC and non-AC retiring rooms, food courts and sanitation facilities. The certification will be reviewed in 2020 by NF

Railway, which mandates stricter environmental norms regarding waste disposal among others to be adhered to Railway Station.

- ✓ ISO (International Organisation for Standardisation) is responsible for establishing standard in different areas of activities. There are many types of ISO certification and ISO-14001 is for environment management system as per international norms and was upgraded last in 2015. Hence the certificate is called ISO 14001:2015.

9. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has tied up with which IIT to collaborate on standardization and conformity assessment?

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

- ✓ The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has tied up with IIT Delhi to collaborate in the field of standardisation and conformity assessment. Under the MoU, the two have agreed to set-up a Centre of Excellence in the field of Standardisation, Testing and Conformity Assessment with the BIS branding at IIT-Delhi campus.
- ✓ Both have also agreed to appoint a Chair in the field of standardisation and conformity assessment.
- ✓ According to the MoU, IIT Delhi will provide infrastructure support for research and development projects of relevance to standardisation and BIS will provide financial support to IIT Delhi for projects. Initially, the MoU will remain in force for a period of five years and can be extended further.

10. Which country's space agency has successfully dropped an explosive on asteroid Ryugu to make crater?

- [A] China
- [B] France
- [C] Japan
- [D] Germany

- ✓ The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) has said that its Hayabusa2 spacecraft has successfully blasted the surface of an asteroid Ryugu to make a crater on its surface.

- ✓ The move will pave the way for the collection of underground samples for possible clues to the origin of the solar system. For this, the Hayabusa2 dropped a "small carry-on impactor" made of copper onto the asteroid and the spacecraft safely evacuated and remained intact.
- ✓ Now, JAXA is analyzing data to examine if or how the impactor made a crater. The copper explosive is the size of a baseball weighing 2 kg. If successful, it would be the first time for a spacecraft to take such materials. The asteroid, named Ryugu after an undersea palace in a Japanese folktale, is about 300 million kilometers (180 million miles) from Earth.
- ✓ Earlier, Hayabusa2 successfully touched down on a tiny flat surface on the boulder-rich asteroid in February 2019, when the spacecraft also collected some surface dust and small debris.

## Winmeen Current Affairs

## 1. Who clinched the 2019 men's singles Malaysia Open badminton tournament?

[A] Srikanth Kidambi

[B] Lin Dan

[C] Chen Long

[D] Sinisuka Ginting

- ✓ Chinese badminton ace Lin Dan clinched the 2019 men's singles Malaysia Open at Axiata Arena in Kuala Lumpur on April 7. After an electric performance, he beat countryman Chen Long 9-21, 21-7, 21-11. The title is Lin's first win this year, and also his first major success since taking the Malaysia Open in 2017.

## 2. Who has taken oath as the new Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court?

[A] Pawan Kalyan

[B] Rishi Bagree

[C] Pradeep Nandrajog

[D] Vidyasagar Rao

- ✓ Justice Pradeep Nandrajog has recently taken oath as the new Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court. He was administered the oath by Maharashtra Governor C Vidyasagar Rao at the Raj Bhavan. Justice Nandrajog was serving as the Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court since March 2017, following his transfer from the Delhi High Court.

## 3. Kushagra Rawat is associated to which sports?

[A] Cricket

[B] Wrestling

[C] Boxing

[D] Swimming

- ✓ Indian swimmer Kushagra Rawat made the 'B' time standard for the 2019 FINA World Championships and the 2020 Tokyo Olympics after clocking 08:07.99 in the 800m freestyle category at the Speedo Thailand Age Group Championships at Bangkok. The B timing for men's 800m freestyle for World Championship 2019 is 08:10.91 and Tokyo Olympics is 08:08.54.

- ✓ Not only in 800m freestyle, Kushagra has made the B standard for the World Championships in the 400m freestyle with a time of 03:56.10. The B standard qualifying time for the World Championships in 400m freestyle is 03:56.14.
- ✓ In the Olympics and World Championships, if the full quota of swimmers to take part in a particular event are not filled by those who crossed the A standard, those who achieved B standard will be called upon to compete.

## 4. India has recently evacuated peacekeeping CRPF contingent from which of the following African countries?

[A] Tunisia

[B] Libya

[C] Kenya

[D] Ethiopia

- ✓ India has recently evacuated its entire contingent of peacekeeping forces comprising 15 CRPF personnel from Tripoli after the situation suddenly worsened in Libya. Indian Ambassador in Tunisia has the concurrent charge of Libya.
- ✓ The military conflict in Libya escalated after the self-styled Libyan National Army (LNA), led by Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar, recently launched a surprise air strike in an area in Tripoli.
- ✓ On the other hand, UN-backed internationally recognized government headed by Fayeze al-Sarraj vowed a major counteroffensive. The move could potentially drag the country back into civil war.
- ✓ The United Nations has called for a two-hour truce to allow evacuations of civilians and the wounded. Libya has been torn by violence and political instability since long-time ruler Muammar Gaddafi was deposed and killed in 2011 uprising.

## 5. What is the theme of the 2019 World Health Day (WHD)?

[A] Depression: Let's Talk

[B] Universal Coverage: Everyone, Everywhere

[C] Food Safety

[D] Halt the rise: beat diabetes

- ✓ The World Health Day (WHD) is observed every year on 7th of April as a global health awareness day under the sponsorship of the World Health

Organization (WHO). The day also celebrated the establishment of WHO in 1948. The 2019 theme is "Universal Coverage: Everyone, Everywhere".

- ✓ Here, Universal Health means that all people across the globe have access, without any kind of discrimination, to comprehensive quality services, wherever they need them, without facing financial difficulties.

6. Global Cooling Coalition, which is in news recently, has recently launched in which of the following countries?

[A] Denmark

[B] Brazil

[C] Argentina

[D] Chile

- ✓ The first-ever global coalition on clean and efficient cooling was launched at the First Global Conference on Synergies between the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement, which concluded on April 3, 2019, in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- ✓ The aim of Cool Coalition is to inspire ambition, identify solutions and mobilise action to accelerate progress towards clean and efficient cooling. It is a global effort led by UN Environment, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, the Kigali Cooling Efficiency Program, and Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL).
- ✓ It also includes government officials from Chile, Rwanda, Denmark as well as leaders from civil society, research and academia. As the world gets warmer, the demand for air conditioners is projected to grow and the greenhouse gas it emits will endanger the planet.
- ✓ Thus, the United Nations-backed 'Cool Coalition' comprising 23 members stated that clean, efficient cooling appliances and equipment can save up to \$2.9 trillion in energy use by 2050, and help avoid 0.4° Celsius warming of the planet.
- ✓ The Global Cool Coalition is a unified front that links action across the Kigali Amendment, Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

7. Which of the following Indian companies has won the 'Global Slag Company of the Year' award?

[A] RINL

[Winmeen.com](http://Winmeen.com)

[B] Essar Steel

[C] Tata Steel

[D] Jindal Steel & Power

- ✓ Tata Steel has been named as the 'Global Slag Company of the Year' at the 14th Global Slag Conference and Exhibition 2019 in Aachen, Germany.
- ✓ It is one of the largest global annual slag events, attended by major steelmakers, steel mill service providers & associated companies.
- ✓ The award was presented to Tata Steel for its innovative practices in development of new applications for Steel by-products (Slag). The award demonstrates global recognition of Tata Steels commitment towards sustainability & circular economy principles.

8. Who has been named as female sportsperson of the year at the ESPN India Multi-Sport Awards 2018?

[A] Mary Kom

[B] Saina Nehwal

[C] Ekta Bhyan

[D] P V Sindhu

- ✓ Olympic silver medallist P.V. Sindhu and star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has been named as female and male sportsperson of the year in the ESPN India Multi-Sport Awards for their achievements in 2018.
- ✓ While Saina Nehwal won the award for the 'Comeback of the Year' after bagging the bronze at the 2018 Asian Games. Jaspal Rana, coach of the Indian shooting team, claimed the 'Coach of the Year' award after India picked up 16 medals in shooting at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.
- ✓ The Indian women's table tennis team took home the award for 'Team of the Year' after it clinched its first-ever gold medal at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

9. Which Indian Armed force has tied up with CSIR for joint research?

[A] Indian Army

[B] Indian Air Force

[C] Indian Navy

[D] Indian Coast Guard

- ✓ Indian Navy has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to undertake joint



research and development of advanced technologies for the Indian Navy.

- ✓ This will be a collaborative arrangement between labs of CSIR, the Indian Navy and Indian industry. The MoU would facilitate joint R&D activities in diverse fields of Mechanical, Electronics, Communication, Computer Science, Propulsion systems, Metallurgy and Nanotechnology.

**10. Who was appointed as Amicus curiae by the Kerala High Court on Kerala floods?**

**[A] Jacob P. Alex**

[B] E P Jayarajan

[C] G Sudhakaran

[D] Kadakampally Surendran

- ✓ In a setback to the ruling Pinarayi Vijayan government, a 49-page report submitted by an Amicus curiae to the Kerala High Court (KHC) on April 3 recommended a judicial probe into the cause of the worst-ever floods to hit the state in August 2018 after it found that faulty dam management led to the flooding.
- ✓ In a report, amicus curiae Jacob P. Alex said that none of the 79 dams in the State were operated or used for the purpose of flood control and moderation, despite the obligation to utilise them for flood control as per the stipulations under the National Water Policy, National Disaster Management Authority guidelines on flood and RTIO (real-time integrated operation).
- ✓ It seemed that high reservoir storage and sudden release of water had resulted in worsening the floods. Various alerts (blue/orange/red) were issued not in accordance with the EAP (Emergency Action Plan) guidelines.
- ✓ No proper follow-up action and effective precautionary steps, especially for evacuating people and accommodating them in safe locations, were taken after the issue of red alert. Hence, this was a matter to be inquired into.

## Winmeen Current Affairs

1. On which date, the 2019 World Homeopathy Day (WHD) is observed recently?

- [A] April 8
- [B] April 9
- [C] April 7
- [D] April 10

- ✓ The World Homeopathy Day (WHD) is observed every year on 10th of April to commemorate the birth anniversary of the founder of Homeopathy, Dr Christian Fredrich Samuel Hahnemann. On the occasion, the Central Council for Research in Homeopathy (CCRH) is organizing a two-day convention in New Delhi.
- ✓ The council will take stock of the challenges faced and formulate future strategies for the development of Homeopathy in the country. The theme of the convention is linking research with education and clinical practice. CCRH is an autonomous research organisation of Ministry of AYUSH.

2. Exercise African Lion 2019 has conducted between which of the following countries?

- [A] South Africa and UK
- [B] Tunisia and Russia
- [C] Morocco and United States
- [D] South Africa and India

- ✓ The joint military exercise "African Lion 2019" has conducted between Morocco and the US from March 16 to April 7 in the region of Agadir, Tifnit, Tan-Tan, Tata and Ben Guerir, with the participation of thousands of military personnel.
- ✓ The annual exercise involves various types of training including command, maneuvering, peace-keeping and aerial refueling.
- ✓ The drills also include training on counter-terrorism operations, land and air exercises as well as a tactical simulation.

3. Who has been appointed as new chief coach of India men's hockey team?

- [A] Herman Kruis
- [B] W V Raman

[C] Graham Reid

[D] Harendra Singh

- ✓ Graham Reid from Australia has been appointed as the new chief coach of the India men's hockey team till the end of 2020. As per industry standards, every international coach's contract is supposed to be for an Olympic cycle.
- ✓ But his tenure can be extended till 2022 FIH World Cup depending upon his performance. Hence, everything will depend on India's performances leading upto the Tokyo Olympics. Reid had a decorated playing career for the Australian national team and was part of the silver medal winning team at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.
- ✓ He also comes with a strong coaching experience, having worked with the Australian and the Netherlands national teams.

4. Nobel laureate Sydney Brenner, who passed away recently, was from which country?

- [A] United Kingdom
- [B] France
- [C] United States
- [D] South Africa

- ✓ Sydney Brenner (92), a South African-born biologist, has passed away in Singapore on April 5, 2019. He helped decipher the genetic code and his research on a roundworm sparked a new field of human disease research.
- ✓ Brenner shared the Nobel Prize in medicine in 2002 for his contribution to work unraveling how genes control cell division. He and two colleagues, John Sulston and Robert Horvitz, traced a transparent roundworm known as C.
- ✓ elegans to determine how cells divide and create something new. The findings on programmed cell death were key to understanding how cancers develop and laid the groundwork for making C. elegans a major model organism in research.

5. Isaak Hayik, who has become the world's oldest soccer player, is from which country?

- [A] Israel
- [B] UAE
- [C] Saudi Arabia

[D] Iran

- ✓ Isaak Hayik has set a new world record as the oldest person to play in a professional soccer match at the age of 73. He broke the record after playing as a goalkeeper for Israeli team Ironi Or Yehuda against Maccabi Ramat Gan on April 5, 2019.
- ✓ Hayik was officially recognised in an award ceremony attended by representatives from the Guinness World Record organisation. The previous record was held by Robert Carmona of Uruguay, who in 2015 played a professional match with Uruguay's Pan de Azucar at the age of 53.

6. Which international organisation has released its latest report on "South Asia Economic Focus, Exports Wanted"?

[A] IMF

[B] ADB

[C] World Bank

[D] AIIB

- ✓ As per latest report on "South Asia Economic Focus, Exports Wanted" by World Bank (WB), India's GDP growth is expected to accelerate moderately to 7.5% in FY 20 (2019-20) and will be driven by continued investment strengthening, particularly private-improved export performance and resilient consumption.
- ✓ As per report, Credit growth will benefit from relatively more accommodative monetary policy amid benign inflationary conditions. Support from delayed fiscal consolidation will partially offset the effects of political uncertainty on economic activity around elections in May 2019. The real GDP growth is estimated at 7.2% in financial year FY 19 (2018-19).

7. Which country is the highest recipient of remittances in 2018, as per World Bank (WB)'s latest report "Migration and Development Brief"?

[A] Philippines

[B] India

[C] China

[D] Mexico

- ✓ The World Bank (WB) has recently released its latest edition of Migration and Development Brief. In it, India has retained its position as the world's top

recipient of remittances with its diaspora sending a whopping \$79 billion back home in 2018.

- ✓ India was followed by China (\$67 billion), Mexico (\$36 billion), the Philippines (\$34 billion), and Egypt (\$29 billion). Over the last three years, India has registered a significant flow of remittances from \$62.7 billion in 2016 to \$65.3 billion 2017.
- ✓ According to the report, remittances to low-and middle-income countries reached a record high of \$529 billion in 2018, an increase of 9.6% over the previous record high of \$483 billion in 2017. Global remittances, which include flows to high-income countries, reached \$ 689 billion in 2018, up from \$633 billion in 2017.

8. On which date, the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Rwanda Genocide is observed recently?

[A] April 7

[B] April 9

[C] April 8

[D] April 6

- ✓ The International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Rwandan genocide is observed every year on 7th of April in memory of the victims of the genocide in Rwanda.
- ✓ The 1994 genocide is considered the hallmark example of violence that was ignored by the international community. In 1994, around 800,000 Tutsis were slaughtered in Rwanda in a hundred-day campaign. Hence, the United Nations established the day to remember members of the Tutsi community, an African ethnic group, which were killed or injured in the atrocities.
- ✓ The Day of Reflection offered an opportunity to consider the factors that had led to such mass atrocity and to renew the collective pledge of "never again".

9. The scientists at which US University have found that cold plasma can kill 99.9% of airborne viruses?

[A] Clemson University

[B] University of Michigan

[C] Stanford University

[D] Yale University

- ✓ Scientists from University of Michigan in the United States have found that dangerous airborne viruses can be rendered harmless on-the-fly when exposed to 'cold plasma' - a stream of energetic, charged fragments of air molecules.
- ✓ The researchers have measured the virus-killing speed and effectiveness of non thermal plasmas - the ionised, or charged, particles that form around electrical discharges such as sparks.
- ✓ A non thermal plasma reactor was able to inactivate or remove from the air stream 99.9% of a test virus. The researchers hope to one day harness this capability to replace the surgical mask.

10. RBI has recently tweaked LCR norms to boost liquidity. What does 'LCR' stands for?

[A] Liquidity Coverage Ratio

[B] Liquidity Carbon Ratio

[C] Liquidity Commodity Ratio

[D] Liquidity Calculative Ratio

- ✓ In a bid to further improve the cash position of banks, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently tweaked Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) norms to provide an additional 2% window to lenders.
- ✓ The move will harmonise the liquidity requirements of banks and release additional money for lending. The LCR indicates the proportion of highly liquid assets held by banks to ensure their ability to meet short-term obligations.
- ✓ In a statement on 'Developmental and Regulatory Policies' the RBI has extended the timeline for linking floating interest rates on personal, home, auto and MSEs loans to external benchmarks.

## Winmeen Current Affairs

1. Which institute has been ranked as the 'Best Educational Institution' in the 2019 National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)?

[A] IIT-Bombay

[B] IIT-Madras

[C] IIT-Roorkee

[D] IIT-Kharagpur

- ✓ The Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-Madras) has been ranked as the top institute in the overall category in the latest edition of National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2019 and is followed by Indian Institute of Science (IISc), IIT Delhi, IIT-Bombay, IIT-Kharagpur, IIT Kanpur, JNU, IIT-Roorkee, IIT-Guwahati and BHU.
- ✓ The NIRF is a Ministry of HRD initiative and released annually. On the other hand, Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore secured the top spot in the management college ranking followed by IIM Ahmedabad and IIM Calcutta.
- ✓ The National Law School of Indian in Bengaluru grabbed the top spot under the law category while Indian Institute of Technology was ranked first in the Architecture category.
- ✓ All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, followed by Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh and Christian Medical College, Vellore were ranked as the top three medical colleges.

2. Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), which is in news recently, is associated to which of the following countries?

[A] Iran

[B] Syria

[C] Tunisia

[D] Israel

- ✓ The United States has recently designated Iran's elite military force, Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) in accordance with section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 (INA).

- ✓ The move, which takes effect on April 15, is part of an effort to put maximum pressure on Iran to end its support for terrorist plots and militant activity that destabilizes the Middle East.
- ✓ Meanwhile, Iran has also designated U.S. military bases and their military forces as terrorist bases and terrorist forces in the region.
- ✓ The IRGC is in charge of Iran's ballistic missile and nuclear programs. It was formed after the 1979 Islamic revolution with a mission to defend the clerical regime.

3. Who has won the 2019 women's singles Monterrey Open tennis tournament?

[A] Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova

[B] Angelique Kerber

[C] Garbine Muguruza

[D] Victoria Azarenka

- ✓ On 7th April 2019, Garbine Muguruza of Spain has successfully defended her Monterrey Open title when Victoria Azarenka retired injured from her first WTA singles final in three years.
- ✓ Muguruza was leading the match between the two former world number ones 6-1 3-1 when Azarenka decided she was unable to continue because of an injury to her right leg.
- ✓ The Monterrey Open is a professional women's tennis tournament played on outdoor hard courts. The event is affiliated with the Women's Tennis Association (WTA), and is part of the International tournaments on the WTA Tour.

4. Who is the current chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT)?

[A] Piyush Dattatraya

[B] Salvi Swatanter Kumar

[C] Madan B Lokur

[D] Adarsh Kumar Goel

- ✓ A bench headed by National Green Tribunal (NGT) Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel has constituted a committee to look into the alleged erosion of Yamuna floodplain due to movement of heavy vehicles in Haryana's Sonapat district.
- ✓ The directions came when the green panel was hearing a plea which said that the policy of



permitting heavy vehicles in the embankments of the river is "destructing the ecology".

- ✓ The committee will comprise Principal Secretary of the Haryana Irrigation and Water Resources Department, Member Secretary of the Haryana State Pollution Control Board and Director of the Mines and Geology Department.
- ✓ The tribunal said the committee would submit a joint report within one month by e-mail so that matter can be taken up before the monsoon.

5. Which of the following cities has become the world's first city to implement 24x7 pollution charge zone?

[A] London

[B] Paris

[C] Berlin

[D] New York

- ✓ London has become the world's first city to implement a special Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) that would charge an entry fee for older vehicles if they do not meet the emission standards. The move aims to reduce toxic air pollution and protect public health.
- ✓ The ULEZ will be operational for 24 hours and 7 days a week. It will help address London's toxic air health crisis that currently leads to thousands of premature deaths annually, and increases the risk of asthma, cancer and dementia.
- ✓ As part of the efforts to combat air pollution, London's famous red bus fleet is also being upgraded. By October 2020, all of 9,200 vehicles will meet or exceed ULEZ standards, as per the statement from Khan's mayoral office.

6. Exercise 'Bold Kurukshetra-2019' was held between India and which of the following countries?

[A] Nepal

[B] Singapore

[C] Indonesia

[D] Sri Lanka

- ✓ The joint military exercise titled "Bold Kurukshetra-2019" was held between the Indian Army and Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) at Babina Cantonment in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh from April 8 to 11.

- ✓ The purpose of the exercise was to develop military technology, enhance the maritime security and bolster the nations' fight against terrorism.

7. The 2019 MENA World Economic Forum was held in which of the following countries?

[A] Egypt

[B] South Africa

[C] Jordan

[D] Zimbabwe

- ✓ The World Economic Forum (WEF) in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) 2019 was held at the Dead Sea in Jordan on April 6 to 7.
- ✓ The 17th WEF meeting in the region called for united efforts to address the most pressing challenges of the area.
- ✓ It was themed on three major visions: generating job opportunities, empowering Arab women and promoting the most intriguing startups that have joined the region's industry over the past years.
- ✓ Over 1,000 government, business and civil society leaders from more than 50 countries participated in the summit.

8. The Bombay Stock Exchange has recently tied up with which bank to give boost to startups platform?

[A] ICICI Bank

[B] HDFC Bank

[C] SBI

[D] Axis Bank

- ✓ The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with HDFC Bank to spread awareness about the benefits of listing on BSE Startups platform.
- ✓ The MoU will also extend value-added support for eligible startups, along with BSE for the listing. The move will offer banking and lending solutions to eligible startups already listed or due-to-list on BSE startup platform.
- ✓ Moreover, the ability to access capital via BSE's startup platform in turn will enable startups to access growth capital and enhance tradability of an otherwise illiquid/ high-risk investment asset class.
- ✓ The exchange had launched the startup platform in December 2018, with an aim to encourage

entrepreneurs to get listed and raise equity capital for their growth and expansion. HDFC Bank has 43 million customers, 5,000 branches and 13,160 ATMs across 2,727 Indian towns and cities.

9. Under which article of the constitution, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has prohibited display/exhibit any biopic/publicity material during Model Code of Conduct (MCC) period?

[A] Article 323

[B] Article 324

[C] Article 325

[D] Article 326

- ✓ As per Article 324 of the constitution, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has recently issued an order prohibiting display in electronic media including cinematograph of any biopic or publicity material in the nature of biography/hagiography sub-serving the purposes of any political entity or any individual entity connected to it.
- ✓ Hence, ECI banned screening of "PM Narendra Modi", a biopic on the Prime Minister, till the national elections are over. Earlier, on 10th March 2019, ECI announced General Elections to 17th Lok Sabha 2019 and from the date of announcement of the elections, the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) came into operation.
- ✓ The Lok Sabha elections will begin on April 11 and will be held over seven phases followed by counting of votes on May 23.

10. Which IIT has tied up with General Electric (GE) to set up India's first Cold Spray SMART Lab?

[A] IIT-Madras

[B] IIT Delhi

[C] IIT-Guwahati

[D] IIT Kanpur

- ✓ IIT-Madras has recently collaborated with American conglomerate General Electric (GE) to set up India's first 'Cold Spray' SMART (Surface Modification and Additive Research Technologies) Laboratory, which will develop advanced services technology for aircraft engine components.
- ✓ This is the first of its kind High-Pressure Cold Spray (HPCS) facility that is being installed in any

academic institute in India. The laboratory consists of a state-of-the-art HPCS equipment has been imported from the famous company Plasma Giken of Japan.

- ✓ The project is funded under 'Uchchatar Avishkar Yojana' (UAY) of the Government of India, which is intended to boost collaboration between academia and private sector.
- ✓ The Union Ministry of Human Resources Development (HRD) was the key investor along with the Department of Science and Technology (DST), IIT Madras and GE. The Cold Spray is an emerging technology for advanced manufacturing and services and will be utilised to co-develop processes for aero-engine applications.
- ✓ This smart technology has application temperatures that are much lower than other thermal-spray and welding processes, which means the distortion and stresses associated with those repair techniques are avoided; leading to longer asset life.

## Winmeen Current Affairs

1. Which Indian education technology startup has won the \$25,000 Next Billion Edtech Prize 2019?

[A] Simplilearn

[B] Dost Education

[C] College Dekho

[D] EduKart

- ✓ India's education technology startup 'Dost Education' has bagged a \$25,000 Next Billion Edtech Prize 2019 for its ability to empower parents to take charge of their child's early education by creating short, friendly audio content that is sent to them via their mobile phones.
- ✓ Besides India's Dost, two other winners also receive \$25,000 each included Ubongo from Tanzania and PraxiLabs from Egypt. The prize, which is run by UK-based Varkey Foundation, recognises the most innovative technology destined to have a radical impact on education in low income and emerging world countries.

2. T-90 tanks, sometimes seen in news, is associated to which of the following countries?

[A] France

[B] United States

[C] Russia

[D] Germany

- ✓ In a major boost for the Indian Army, the Government of India (GoI) has recently cleared the procurement of 464 T-90 tanks from Russia in a deal worth over Rs 13,500 crore. Under the new deal, the T-90 tanks would be provided to the Armoured Corps of the force which will use them for deployment along the border with Pakistan.
- ✓ The contract will also include a Make-in-India element for integration at the Heavy Vehicles Factory in Avadi near Chennai. The T-90 would be equipped with thermal imaging night sights to allow the tank commander to strike enemy locations during night battles.
- ✓ The new inductions will also strengthen the Army's fire-power along the land border stretch with Pakistan -- from Jammu in the north till the western

flank in Gujarat. The new deal would increase the number of T-90s in the Army to close to 2,000 along with the remaining T-72 and T-55s.

3. Which India's flagship programme has won the 2019 Public Water Agency of the Year at the Global Water Summit (GWS)?

[A] Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana

[B] Smart Cities Mission

[C] Standup India

[D] Namami Gange

- ✓ India's flagship programme, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) (or Namami Gange) was awarded the distinction of "Public Water Agency of the Year" by Global Water Intelligence at the Global Water Summit (GWS) in London on April 9.
- ✓ The GWS was the major business conference for the water industry worldwide. The coveted awards recognize excellence across the entire international water industry and reward those initiatives in the water, wastewater, and desalination sectors which bring remarkable improvements in the lives of people.
- ✓ The Namami Gange programme an integrated conservation mission with a budget of Rs 20,000 crore to accomplish the objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of the Ganga.
- ✓ The project covers 8 states and seeks to fully connect all 1,632 Gram Panchayats along the Ganga to a sanitation system by 2022. Its mission aims at providing comprehensive and sustainable solutions for major pollution hot spots along the stretch of 97 towns and 4,465 villages on the Ganga stem.

4. The Supreme Court (SC) has imposed a fine of Rs 20 lakh on which state government for banning satirical film Bhubishyoter Bhoot?

[A] Assam

[B] West Bengal

[C] Jharkhand

[D] Odisha

- ✓ On April 11, the Supreme Court (SC) imposed a fine of Rs 20 lakh on the West Bengal government for

imposing a 'virtual' ban on the public screening of the satirical film Bhobishyoter Bhoot in the state.

- ✓ A bench headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud said the fine amount shall be given to producers and cinema hall owners as compensation for violation of their right to freedom of speech and expression.
- ✓ The court was hearing a plea by the film producer which alleged the movie was taken down from a majority of theatres at the behest of the state authorities. The film, directed by Anik Dutta, was released on February 15.
- ✓ Its story revolves around a group of ghosts, including a politician, who assemble at a refugee camp and try to be relevant in contemporary times. The film was allegedly withdrawn from single-screen theatres and multiplexes a day after its release.

#### 5. Who has been selected for the 2018 Saraswati Samman?

[A] Siva Reddy

[B] Vijay Tendulkar

[C] Shamsur Rahman Faruqi

[D] Indira Parthasarathy Ramanujar

- ✓ Telugu poet K Siva Reddy has been selected for the prestigious Saraswati Samman, 2018 for his collection of poetry titled Pakkaki Ottigilite (Turning Aside While Lying Down).
- ✓ It is the highest recognition in the field of Indian literature and carries a cash purse of Rs 15 lakh, apart from a citation and a plaque.
- ✓ Pakkaki Ottigilite, published in 2016, is an anthology of 104 poems in blank verse. It captures the responses of the poet over the years to social change, the evolution of his own self and his dynamic relationship with the world.
- ✓ The award, instituted by the KK Birla Foundation in 1991, is given annually for an outstanding literary work written in any Indian language and published during the last 10 years.

#### 6. Which Indian Cricketer has been named as the Wisden's Leading Cricketer in the World for 2018?

[A] K L Rahul

[B] M S Dhoni

[C] Virat Kohli

[D] Rohit Sharma

- ✓ Indian captain Virat Kohli has been named as the Leading Cricketer of the year for an unprecedented third year in a row by the 2019 edition of Wisden Cricketers' Almanack. Kohli was picked as one of the Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Year, along with Tammy Beaumont, Jos Buttler, Sam Curran and Rory Burns.
- ✓ The Indian skipper is only the third cricketer ever to have won the award more than three times after Don Bradman (10 times) and Jack Hobbs (8 times). India's Smriti Mandhana has been named as the women's Leading Cricketer in the World for 2018 while Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan was named the Leading Twenty20 Cricketer for the second consecutive year.
- ✓ Wisden has been listing out Cricketers of the Year since 1889 and it is considered as one of the more prestigious awards in the sport.

#### 7. Which country has recently sent a team of experts to re-measure height of Mount Everest?

[A] India

[B] China

[C] Nepal

[D] Bhutan

- ✓ The Nepal government has recently sent a 4-member team of experts to re-measure the height of Mount Everest. Chief Survey Officer Khim Lal Gautam and Survey Officer Rabin Karki will ascend Mount Everest.
- ✓ After reaching the summit, they will use a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) that will send readings about its height to their two colleagues who will remain at base camp.
- ✓ The Survey Department in Kathmandu will be conducted four sets of surveys: Precise levelling, Trigonometric levelling, Gravity survey and GNSS survey. It is for the first time, Nepal has sent its own team to conduct a survey of the world's highest mountain.
- ✓ The aim of the government is to measure the exact height of Mount Everest amid debates that there might have been a change in its height due to various

reasons including the devastating earthquake of 2015.

- ✓ Survey of India had measured the height as 8848 meter in 1954 and it has been adopted as authentic height by the Government of Nepal till date.

8. The scientists at which US university have developed a new pin-sized sensor that can detect dangerous chemicals?

- [A] Duke University
- [B] Yale university
- [C] Massachusetts Institute of Technology

[D] University of Wisconsin-Madison

- ✓ The scientists at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the US have developed a novel sensor that can be used in smartphone-sized devices to detect dangerous chemicals based on a unique fingerprint of absorbed and emitted light.
- ✓ Devices called spectrometers are light-splitting instruments that have long been both bulky and expensive, preventing their use outside the lab.
- ✓ However, researchers have now developed a spectrometer so small and simple that it could integrate with the camera of a typical cellphone without sacrificing accuracy.
- ✓ The device also has an advanced capability called hyperspectral imaging, which collects information about each individual pixel in an image to identify materials or detect specific objects amidst a complicated background.
- ✓ Hyperspectral sensing could be used to detect seams of valuable minerals within rock faces or to identify specific plants in a highly vegetated area.

9. Who has been appointed as the new Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court?

- [A] Vikram Nath
- [B] Praveen Kumar
- [C] N V Ramana
- [D] K S Das

- ✓ Justice Vikram Nath, seniormost judge of the Allahabad High Court, has been appointed Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court. He succeeded acting CJ Justice Chagari Praveen Kumar.

- ✓ A collegium of Supreme Court comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi and judges S A Bobde and N V Ramana recommended the name of Justice Nath as the chief justice of the AP High Court.
- ✓ The new high court for Andhra Pradesh was created on 1st January 2019, following the bifurcation of a combined high court for AP and Telangana, which had been operating from Hyderabad since June 2, 2014, when the two Telugu states got separated.

10. What is the theme of the 2019 National Safe Motherhood Day (NSMD)?

- [A] End Maternal Mortality
- [B] For safe childbirth, let's visit health centres
- [C] Respectful Maternity Care

[D] Midwives for Mothers

- ✓ The National Safe Motherhood Day (NSMD) is observed every year on 11th of April to raise awareness about the proper healthcare of women and maternity facilities to pregnant and lactating women.
- ✓ This day also raise awareness for the prevention of child marriages that may be an indirect cause of maternal deaths. The 2019 theme is "Midwives for Mothers". India is the first country in the world to have officially declared a National Safe Motherhood Day.



## Winmeen Current Affairs

1. As per which section of the RTI Act, the Government of India (GoI) cannot refuse information if disclosure in public interest overshadows certain 'protected interests'?

- [A] Section 7(2)
- [B] Section 6(2)
- [C] Section 8(2)
- [D] Section 9(2)

- ✓ Supreme Court Justice K M Joseph has recently delivered a separate judgment in the Rafale case. He countered the claim made by the Government of India (GoI) for privilege over Rafale purchase documents under the Official Secrets Act (OSA), which affected national security and relations with France.
- ✓ He stated that the Right to Information (RTI) Act supersedes the OSA. By referring to Section 8(2) of the RTI Act, Justice Joseph said the government cannot refuse information if disclosure in public interest overshadows certain 'protected interests'.
- ✓ Hence, the separate judgment also offers a scathing critique on journalistic bias. The judge said "controlling business interests and political allegiances" have eroded journalistic responsibility.
- ✓ The RTI Act confers on ordinary citizens the 'priceless right' to demand information even in matters affecting national security and relations with a foreign state.

2. Which Indian personality has been chosen for Russia's highest civilian award "Order of St Andrew the Apostle"?

- [A] Mary Kom
- [B] Narendra Modi
- [C] Amitabh Bachchan
- [D] Azim Premji

- ✓ On April 12, the Russia government announced its decision to confer the Order of St Andrew the Apostle - the highest state decoration of the country on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ✓ The decoration is being given to Mr Modi for his exceptional services in promoting special and privileged strategic partnership between the

Russian Federation and India and friendly relations between the Russian and Indian people.

- ✓ The Order was established in 1698 by Tsar Peter the Great, in honour of Saint Andrew, the first apostle of Jesus and patron saint of Russia.
- ✓ This is the 7th international award conferred on Mr Modi since he became the premier in 2014. The others are the Zayed Medal of the UAE (2019), the Seoul Peace Prize, UN Champions of the Earth Award, Grand Collar of the State of Palestine (all in 2018), Amir Abdullah Khan Award of Afghanistan and King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Award of Saudi Arabia (both in 2016). Four of the awards are from Islamic states.

3. Which international agency has recently published a State of World Population 2019 report?

- [A] UNESCO
- [B] UNIDA
- [C] UNICEF
- [D] UNFPA

- ✓ The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has recently released a State of World Population 2019 report. The report stated that India's population grew at an average annual rate of 1.2% between 2010 and 2019 to 1.36 billion, which is more than double the annual growth rate of China.
- ✓ According to the report, in India, total fertility rate per woman was 5.6 in 1969, dropping to 3.7 in 1994 and 2.3 in 2019. India also recorded an improvement in life expectancy at birth. The life expectancy at birth in 1969 was 47 years, growing to 60 years in 1994 and 69 years in 2019.
- ✓ As per India's population composition in 2019, 27% of the population was in the age bracket of 0-14 years and 10-24 years each, 67% in the 15-64 age bracket and 6% was of the age 65 and above.
- ✓ The report noted that Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in the country dropped from 488 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1994 to 174 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2015.

4. The Jallianwala Bagh massacre was held in which of the following years?

- [A] 1916
- [B] 1918

[C] 1917

[D] 1919

- ✓ On 13th April 2019, the nation paid homage to the martyrs of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre on the centenary of the incident. On this day in 1919, hundreds of innocent Indians were killed by troops under British Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer, during a peaceful meeting on Baisakhi at the park in Amritsar, Punjab.
- ✓ Here, the civilians had assembled for a peaceful protest to condemn the arrest and deportation of two national leaders, Satya Pal and Saifuddin Kitchlew.
- ✓ The massacre is one of the darkest chapters of India's freedom struggle against the British occupation. The official death toll by the British government was put at 379, but Indian figures put the toll at closer to 1,000.
- ✓ Even after 100 years, the British government has only regretted the massacre but stopped short of apologizing for the killing of so many innocent people.

5. Which mobile wallet provider has tied up with MMTC-PAMP India to launch gold buying feature?

[A] Google Pay

[B] Paytm

[C] MobiKwik

[D] PhonePe

- ✓ To make Google Pay more useful for Indian customers, Google has partnered with MMTC-PAMP India to introduce buying and selling of gold through the app.
- ✓ Through this partnership with India's only London Bullion Market Association (LBMA)-accredited gold refinery, Google Pay users will be able to buy 99.99% 24-karat gold. Google Pay users can now purchase gold for any value, which will be stored on behalf of the user in secure vaults by MMTC-PAMP.
- ✓ Users can buy and sell this gold any time at the latest price, refreshed every few minutes on the Google Pay app. Other mobile wallet providers such as Paytm, MobiKwik and PhonePe too provide the facility of buying gold from their wallet apps.

6. The scientists at which university have discovered chain-melted state of matter?

[A] University of Central Florida

[B] University of Edinburgh

[C] University of California

[D] University of Michigan

- ✓ The scientists at University of Edinburgh have discovered a new state of physical matter - which allows atoms to exist as both solid and liquid at the same time.
- ✓ Until now, atoms in physical matter were understood to exist typically in one of three states — solid, liquid or gas. An international team of physicists have found that some elements can take on the properties of both solid and liquid states, when subjected to extreme conditions.
- ✓ They used Artificial Intelligence (AI) to simulate what would happen if potassium was subject to huge pressure -- between about 200,000 and 400,000 times atmospheric pressure -- and heat -- between 400 to 800 Kelvin (260 to 980 degrees Fahrenheit).
- ✓ The study found that under these conditions potassium atoms entered what is known as a chain-melted state, where one of the two lattices -- the "guest" part -- dissolved into liquid, while the "host" part remained solid.
- ✓ They found that more than half a dozen other elements, including sodium and bismuth, were able to reach the state if they were put into the right environments.

7. Who has become the first-ever captain to win 100 matches in IPL history?

[A] Kane Williamson

[B] Keiron Pollard

[C] MS Dhoni

[D] Aaron Finch

- ✓ Mahendra Singh Dhoni has become the first-ever captain to register 100 wins in Indian Premier League (IPL) history after Chennai Super Kings (CSK) defeated Rajasthan Royals by 4 wickets at the Sawai Man Singh stadium in Jaipur on 11th April 2019.

- ✓ MS Dhoni is the most experienced captain in the Indian Premier League. He has led Chennai Super Kings in 152 matches.
- ✓ In 2016, Dhoni led Rising Pune Supergiant in 14 matches. Overall, MS Dhoni has played 182 matches in the IPL and scored 4172 runs at an average of 41.30 with 21 fifties (19 for CSK and 2 for RPS) and 121 dismissals as wicketkeeper.

8. *Homo luzonensis*, which is in news recently, has discovered in which of the following countries?

- [A] Maldives
- [B] South Africa
- [C] Philippines
- [D] Australia

- ✓ Scientists have recently discovered new species of ancient human excavations in Philippines. This newly identified species named *Homo Luzonensis* after Luzon Island, where bones and teeth from individuals of this species were excavated from Callao Cave.
- ✓ The small size of the bones suggests this archaic human would have been shorter than 4ft tall – possibly even shorter than another ancient species - *Homo floresiensis*.
- ✓ The specimens of *H. luzonensis* were dated to 50,000 and 67,000 years old (Late Pleistocene period), which suggests that the species was alive at the same time as several other hominins belonging to the genus *Homo*, including *Homo sapiens*, Neanderthals, Denisovans and *Homo floresiensis*.
- ✓ Thus, this discovery claims finding to be the earliest direct evidence human presence in Philippines.

9. Which of the following countries will be the Guest of Honour country at the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF 2019)?

- [A] Russia
- [B] Bangladesh
- [C] China
- [D] India

- ✓ India will be the Guest of Honour country at the 29th Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF 2019), which is scheduled to be held from April 24th to 30th. The fair aims to highlight the UAE's rich heritage,

showcasing its authenticity and modernity, as well as its cultural and literary output.

- ✓ India's participation in the fair is expected to attract significant increase in the number of visitors with various events and activities which will be held throughout the entire duration of ADIBF.
- ✓ The Indian Pavilion will host Indian writers, authors and literary scholars who will serve as ambassadors for the literature and art of their country.

10. Who has been appointed as new Secretary of Defence Finance?

- [A] Sumeet Jerath
- [B] Gargi Kaul
- [C] Raj Kumar Goyal,
- [D] Prem Kumar Kataria

- ✓ Gargi Kaul, a 1984-batch officer of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IA&AS), has been appointed as new Secretary of Defence Finance.

## Winmeen Current Affairs

## 1. Which Indian city has been ranked first on the WHO's list of 15 most polluted cities?

- [A] Varanasi  
[B] Faridabad  
[C] Kanpur  
[D] Delhi

- ✓ The report on 'Political Leaders Position and Action on Air Quality in India 2014-2019' has recently released by a Delhi-based environment body - Climate Trends. As per report, Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur has been ranked 1st on the WHO's list of 15 most polluted cities.
- ✓ Faridabad (Haryana) stood at 2nd position, followed by Varanasi (UP), which is the Lok Sabha constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The report claimed that the situation in Varanasi is deteriorating as its MP has focused on beautification and infrastructure.
- ✓ The Air Quality index (AQI) in Varanasi reached an alarming 490 in 2017 and 384 -- very poor category -- in December 2018.
- ✓ The report also noted that MPs of Lucknow and Kanpur -- Home Minister Rajnath Singh and senior BJP leader Murli Manohar Joshi respectively -- have mostly been silent on the issue of air pollution in their respective constituencies.
- ✓ Gaya and Patna in Bihar are 4th and 5th on the list, while Delhi is 6th and Uttar Pradesh capital Lucknow is 7th. Cities of Agra, Muzaffarpur, Srinagar, Gurugram, Jaipur, Patiala and Jodhpur are also on the WHO list of most polluted cities.

## 2. Sabooj Sathi project of which Indian state has got the UN-backed WSIS Prize 2019?

- [A] Kharkhand  
[B] West Bengal  
[C] Kerala  
[D] Uttar Pradesh

- ✓ Two schemes of the West Bengal government for skill development and distribution of bi-cycles to students have won the prestigious World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS-2019) awards under

the aegis of the United Nations in Geneva. The schemes are "Utkarsh Bangla" and "Sabooj Sathi".

- ✓ Out of 1062 nominations in 18 categories, Utkarsh Bangla got the topmost award and emerged a winner in Capacity Building category. Sabooj Sathi ranked in the first five as a champion project under ICT application: E-Government category.
- ✓ The "Utkarsh Bangla" project aims at creating a pool of skilled candidates who are industry ready, while under the "Sabooj Sathi" scheme, bi-cycles are distributed to students between class IX and XII studying in government run and government aided schools and madrasahs of the state.
- ✓ Earlier, in 2017, the West Bengal government had received another UN award for its 'Kanyashree' project, a targeted conditional cash transfer scheme aimed at promoting education among girls.
- ✓ The WSIS Prizes is an international contest to create an effective mechanism to evaluate and recognise individuals, governments and private bodies for outstanding success in implementing development oriented strategies that leverage the power of ICTs as an enabler of the development.

## 3. Which Indian personality has been honored with the Freedom of the City of London?

- [A] Alice G. Vaidyan  
[B] Atul Sahai  
[C] M.R. Kumar  
[D] Hemant Bhargava

- ✓ Alice G. Vaidyan, the CMD of the General Insurance Corporation (GIC) of India, has been awarded the Freedom of the City of London in recognition of her work to promote insurance ties between India and the UK.
- ✓ The Freedom of the City of London dates back to the 13th century and has since developed into an honour bestowed upon individuals who make an impact in the financial hub of London, referred to as the City or the Square Mile.
- ✓ The Freedom of the City of London is a very special and ancient tradition.

## 4. Which of the following telescopes has captured the first-ever Black hole image?

[A] James Webb Space

[B] Hubble

[C] EHT

[D] Spitzer Space

- ✓ Astronomers have captured the first-ever image of a black hole, which is located in a distant galaxy known as 'Messier 87' (M87), through a network of 8 linked radio telescopes known as the Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) Collaboration.
- ✓ The black hole in the centre of M87 has a mass of more than six billion solar masses. The picture shows an intensely bright 'ring of fire' surrounding a perfectly circular dark hole.
- ✓ MIT Computer scientist Dr. Katie Bouman has been credited for developing an algorithm that allowed the world to see what a black hole actually looks like. The EHT is a consortium of more than 200 scientists that has been in the works for about two decades.
- ✓ The EHT telescope achieved the necessary firepower by combining data from 8 of the world's leading radio observatories, including the Atacama Large Millimetre Array (Alma) in Chile and the South Pole Telescope and created an effective telescope size of the Earth.
- ✓ Black holes were first predicted by Einstein's theory of relativity and now, the first black hole photo confirms his theory. A black hole is a region of space whose mass is so large and dense that not even light can escape its gravitational attraction.

5. Which Indian sportsperson is the recipient of the New Zealand Prime Minister's Sir Edmund Hillary Fellowship for 2019?

[A] Abhinav Bindra

[B] Sania Nehwal

[C] Mary Kom

[D] Deepa Malik

- ✓ Rio Paralympics silver medallist Deepa Malik has been named the recipient of the New Zealand Prime Minister's Sir Edmund Hillary Fellowship for 2019 in recognition of her inspiring achievements.
- ✓ She will travel to New Zealand as a Sir Edmund Hillary Prime Minister's Fellow and meet with Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern as well as visit Paralympic sporting organizations. Here, she will work to

promote sporting, cultural as well people-to-people relationship between India and New Zealand.

- ✓ Till date, she has won 58 national and 23 international medals and has been honoured with the Padma Shri and Arjuna Award. Deepa won the silver in shot put F53 event in 2016 Rio Paralympics.
- ✓ Athletes in F53 category can do only seated throws and they have full muscle power on their shoulder, elbow and wrist in the throwing arm. She recently joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

6. Who has been appointed as the first-ever woman Vice-Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia University (JMI)?

[A] Najma Akhtar

[B] Zahra Nigah

[C] Sarwat Zahra

[D] Shanaz Nabi

- ✓ Professor Najma Akhtar has become the first-ever woman Vice-Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia University (JMI) for a period of five years or until she attains the age of 70 years, She is also the first lady vice chancellor of any central university in Delhi.
- ✓ Ms. Akhtar has four decades of academic scholarship in educational leadership. She is known for spearheading international educational administrators' course for senior officials from 130 countries for more than 15 years at National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) in New Delhi.

7. Which tech giant has launched a new open platform "Anthos" to run and manage apps from anywhere?

[A] Microsoft

[B] Google

[C] Facebook

[D] Wipro

- ✓ Google has introduced a new open platform called Anthos to run and manage apps from anywhere.
- ✓ It is based on the Cloud Services Platform and would let users run applications on existing on-premise hardware investments or in the Public Cloud.
- ✓ Anthos not only allows customers to deploy Google Cloud in their own data centres but also gives them the flexibility to build, run and manage their workloads within their data centre, on Google Cloud,



or other cloud providers (Multi-Cloud), without making any changes.

- ✓ Anthos will also let users manage workloads running on third-party clouds like Amazon AWS and Microsoft Azure.

8. Which of the following banks has signed the first co-origination loan agreement with Paisalo Digital?

[A] BoI

[B] SBI

[C] PNB

[D] BoB

- ✓ To empower AGRI, MSME segment and small businesses, the State Bank of India (SBI) has signed the first co-origination loan agreement with PAISALO Digital Limited. It is the first agreement of its kind in the country that SBI has signed.
- ✓ This will introduce a platform for the last mile customer. Here, the loan ticket is designed at Rs 10,000 to Rs 2 lakh.
- ✓ The company expects to disburse 200,000 loan applications in FY20. The move is to enable the customers to reach with ease and use the platform for smooth loan disbursal and repayment easily.
- ✓ PAISALO Digital Ltd is a systemically important non-deposit taking NBFC registered with the Reserve Bank of India and has been in operations since 1992.

9. Who has been appointed as the new CMD of National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC)?

[A] Anoop Kumar Mittal

[B] Sudha Das

[C] Shiv Das Meena

[D] P S Mani

- ✓ Shiv Das Meena, an IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre of 1989-Batch, has been appointed as the CMD of National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC).
- ✓ He will succeed Dr. Anoop Kumar Mittal. The NBCC is a blue-chip Government of India (GoI) Navratna enterprise and is headquartered in New Delhi.

10. India and which European country have launched joint Industrial R&D programme to address shared challenges?

[A] Italy

[B] Sweden

[C] France

[D] Germany

- ✓ India and Sweden have recently launched the India-Sweden Collaborative Industrial Research and Development Programme on the occasion of the Sweden-India Innovation Partnership AI for All Summit in New Delhi.
- ✓ The programme will address a range of global challenges through technology and innovation. The Joint programme is co-funded by Indian Department of Science & Technology (DST) and Sweden's Innovation Agency – Vinnova.
- ✓ The new programme brings together the world class excellence of Sweden and India to address challenges in the area of Smart Cities and Clean Technologies and Digitalization / Internet of Things (IoT).
- ✓ Vinnova will provide funding to Swedish side participants upto 2,500,000 Swedish Krona as grant. On the Indian side, conditional grant of upto 50% with a limit of INR 1.5 crores per project to Indian project partners to be provided.
- ✓ This Programme is technically and administratively managed by the Global Innovation & Technology Alliance (GITA) on behalf of DST in India and Vinnova in Sweden.

## Winmeen Current Affairs

1. Meena Kumari Maisnam has clinched gold in which category at the Cologne Boxing World Cup 2019?

- [A] 64kg
- [B] 60kg
- [C] 51kg

[D] 54kg

- ✓ Meena Kumari Maisnam from Manipur clinched gold in the 54 kg category at the 2019 Boxing World Cup in Cologne, Germany.
- ✓ Reigning youth world champion Sakshi (57 kg) and India Open champion Pwilao Basumatary (64 kg) lost their final bouts and finished with silver medals.
- ✓ Hence, India completed a haul of five medals from this prestigious European tournament following Pinki Rani (51kg) and Parveen (60kg)'s bronze medal wins on 13th April 2019.

2. Which country to host the world's foremost Artificial Intelligence (AI) Summit?

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

- ✓ The world's foremost Artificial Intelligence (AI) Summit will be held at the Dubai World Trade Centre in UAE from April 30 to 1st May, 2019. The aim of the inaugural 'AI Everything (AIE)' is to empower global dialogue on the future of government, business and society.
- ✓ The two-day event will bring together world leaders to define the underlying pillars of governance, business and society - augmenting the world's happiness. It will be hosted by the UAE National Programme for Artificial Intelligence, with the support of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and in strategic partnership with Smart Dubai.
- ✓ The AIE will unravel real-world use cases across industries, and forge collaborations and partnerships, hosting over 130 influential speakers.

3. Gelete Burka, who won the women's race at the Paris Marathon 2019, is from which country?

[A] Ethiopia

[B] Jamaica

[C] Israel

[D] Norway

- ✓ Ethiopian athletes Gelete Burka (women's race) and Abreha Milaw (men's race) won the 43rd edition of the Paris Marathon on 14th April 2019. They led a record 60,000 participants to the finish line through the French capital.
- ✓ Milaw won the men's race with a time of 2 hours :07 minutes and :50 seconds. Burka was the fastest woman with 2 hours :22 minutes and :48 seconds. In the wheelchair race, Julien Casoli won for a third time.
- ✓ The fastest disabled racer put up a time of 1 hour:36 minutes and :57 seconds. The Paris marathon is one of the world's most popular running events.

4. The people of which state has recently celebrated "Vishu" as their new year?

[A] Karnataka

[B] Kerala

[C] Andhra Pradesh

[D] Telangana

- ✓ In Kerala, people are celebrating the Malayalam New Year "Vishu" with traditional gaiety and fervor on 15th April 2019.
- ✓ The word Vishu means 'equal' in Sanskrit, and it marks the sun's transit to the Mesha rashi (the first astrological sign in the zodiac).
- ✓ The day begins with people taking Kani darshanam (or Vishu kani) soon after waking up. The elders or women in the family prepare the Vishu Kani a day before by using edible stuff like rice grains, cucumber, pumpkin, coconut, mangoes, betel leaves, flowers, coins and fruits and a metal vessel called "urali" in front of a mirror that reflects the image of their deity.
- ✓ A special yellow flower named Konna is a must in the Kani. Elders gift money ( kaineettam ) to younger members.

- ✓ They also exchange gifts with their loved ones and wear new clothes. On this day, devotees visit temples and offer their prayer to Lord Krishna, who is worshipped on this day. People also visit Sabarimala Ayyappan Temple, Guruvayur Sree Krishna temple or the Kulathupuzha Sree BaalaShastha Temple to have a 'Vishukkani Kazhcha' viewing in the early hours of the day.
- ✓ And like all other festivals, Vishu is incomplete without an elaborate meal. There will be a delicious meal - the Sadya which consists of different varieties of preparations.

**5. Who has become the first Indian to be appointed Chair of International Hockey Federation (FIH) Health and Safety Committee?**

- [A] S V Sunil
- [B] P R Sreejesh
- [C] Dilip Tirkey

**[D] Bibhu Kalyan Nayak**

- ✓ Bibhu Kalyan Nayak from Bhubaneswar has become the first Indian to be appointed Chair of International Hockey Federation (FIH) Health and Safety Committee by the world governing body. He will serve a two-year term lasting till the first executive board meeting after Congress 2020.
- ✓ He has extensively trained in Sports Traumatology and Sports and Exercise Physiology from National Institute of Sports Medicine at Havana, Cuba & National Sports Centre at Madrid, Spain. Nayak also served as a medical officer for the 2018 Men's World Cup.
- ✓ He was commissioned in the Army Medical Corps of the Indian Army in 1995 and has worked in the Army Sports Institute, Pune for six years.

**6. Who has been conferred with Lifetime Achievement Award-2019 at the 4th APJ Abdul Kalam Innovation Conclave?**

- [A] Mamta Kharab
- [B] Arjun Halappa
- [C] A K Singh**
- [D] Amit Rohidas

- ✓ Director General at Life Sciences – DRDO, Dr A K Singh has been conferred with Lifetime Achievement

[Winmeen.com](http://Winmeen.com)

Award-2019 during 4th APJ Abdul Kalam Innovation Conclave at Chandigarh University, Mohali.

- ✓ He is recognized for his rich contribution in the field of life sciences, aerospace and aeronautics. The DST scientist has more than 18 patents and has contributed in more than 57 research publications at an international and national level.
- ✓ The conclave was organised by the university to mark World Creativity and Innovation Day (WCID).

**7. Who of the following has been chosen for 2019 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano Press Freedom Prize?**

- [A] Mazen Darwish
- [B] Mahmoud Abu Zeid
- [C] Kyaw Soe Oo**
- [D] Dawit Isaak

- ✓ Journalists Kyaw Soe Oo and Wa Lone (Myanmar) has been chosen for 2019 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano Press Freedom Prize. Both laureates are serving 7-year prison sentences.
- ✓ At the time of their arrest in Yangon on 12 December 2017, they were working for the Reuters news agency, reporting on alleged human rights violations in Myanmar's state of Rakhine. The prize will be awarded on 2 May as part of the celebration of 2019 World Press Freedom Day (3 May) which is taking place in Ethiopia.
- ✓ The Prize recognizes outstanding contributions to the defence or promotion of press freedom especially in the face of danger. It is named after Guillermo Cano Isaza, the Colombian journalist who was assassinated in front of the offices of his newspaper El Espectador in Bogotá, Colombia, on 17 December 1986.
- ✓ The \$25,000 Prize is funded by the Guillermo Cano Isaza Foundation (Colombia), the Helsingin Sanomat Foundation (Finland), and The Namibia Media Trust.

**8. Which of the following banks has topped Forbes' list of Indian banks 2019?**

- [A] HDFC Bank**
- [B] ICICI Bank
- [C] IDFC Bank
- [D] SBI

- ✓ Forbes has recently compiled a first-ever list of the World's Best Bank 2019 in terms of customer services and technological advancements. The private lender, HDFC Bank, was ranked at the top of the Forbes list of Indian banks, followed by ICICI Bank, DBS, Kotak Mahindra Bank and IDFC Bank.
- ✓ However, India's largest public sector bank, the State Bank of India (SBI), did not even make it to top 10 of the list and was ranked 11th by the customers. Forbes had partnered with Statista, a market research company, to measure the best banks in 23 countries.
- ✓ Interestingly, this survey ignored any financial performances like P&L statements and balance sheets in favour of a customer's opinion.
- ✓ The survey compiled data from around 40,000 customers around the world for their opinions on their banking relationships. The banks were rated on the basis of 5 key attributes - trust, digital services, financial advice and fees.

9. Who has been sworn-in as the new prime minister of Palestine?

- [A] Salim Zanon
- [B] Mahmoud Abbas
- [C] **Mohammad Shtayyeh**
- [D] Ahmed Qurei

- ✓ Dr. Mohammad Shtayyeh has been sworn-in as the new prime minister of the State of Palestine by President Mahmoud Abbas at his headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah.
- ✓ The 18th Palestinian government since the establishment of the Palestinian Authority in 1995 was sworn in according to a presidential decree issued by Abbas.
- ✓ The State of Palestine is a de jure sovereign state in Western Asia claiming the West Bank and Gaza Strip with Jerusalem as the designated capital, although its administrative center is currently located in Ramallah.
- ✓ It is recognized by 136 UN members and since 2012 has a status of a non-member observer state in the United Nations – which implies recognition of statehood. It is a member of the Arab League, Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, G77, and the

International Olympic Committee (IOC) and other international bodies.

10. The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has tied up with which scientific institute to protect coastal wetlands?

- [A] **ISRO**
- [B] BARC
- [C] DRDO
- [D] VSSC

- ✓ In a major attempt to build resilience against the impact of climate change, the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) and the Space Applications Centre (SAC) of ISRO have joined together to map, validate and protect smaller wetlands in the coastal region aimed at restoring them through coastal livelihood programmes.
- ✓ Both the organizations will develop a mobile app and a centralised web portal with a complete database of wetlands that are smaller than 2.25 hectares in the country. Such smaller wetlands cover an area of more than five lakh hectares across the country, while Kerala having as many as 2,592 smaller wetlands.
- ✓ As per the MoU, the two scientific institutes aim to identify and demarcate wetlands and restore the degraded wetlands through suitable livelihood options like coastal aquaculture. The app will be used for real-time monitoring of the wetlands and giving advisories to stakeholders and coastal people.
- ✓ The collaborative move is part of a national framework for fisheries and wetlands recently developed by the National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) project of CMFRI.

## Winmeen Current Affairs

1. On which date, the 2019 International Day of Human Space Flight is observed on which date?

[A] April 14

[B] April 12

[C] April 15

[D] April 17

- ✓ The International Day of Human Space Flight is observed every year on April 12 to mark the beginning of the space era for mankind, reaffirming the important contribution of space science and technology in achieving sustainable development goals and increasing the well-being of States and peoples, as well as ensuring the realization of their aspiration to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes.
- ✓ On 12th April 1961 the first human space flight was carried out by Yuri Gagarin, a Soviet citizen. This historic event opened the way for space exploration for the benefit of all humanity.

2. India's first-of-its-kind 'Voter Park' has recently inaugurated in which of the following cities?

[A] Kolkata

[B] Pune

[C] Dehradun

[D] Gurugram

- ✓ India's first-of-its-kind 'Voter Park' has recently inaugurated in Gurugram, Haryana to increase voter awareness and educating people about the electoral process. At the park, voters will get information about the polling process and the history of elections in the country.
- ✓ The purpose of establishing Voter Park was also to motivate eligible people to vote in the Lok Sabha election so that they can contribute to the progress of the country.
- ✓ A 'Selfie Point' has also been set up in the park, where people can click selfies displaying the indelible ink mark on their finger after casting their vote.

3. What is the theme of the 2019 World Allergy Week (WAW)?

[A] The Agony of Hives

[B] The Global Problem of Food Allergy

[C] Anaphylaxis - When Allergies Can Be Severe and Fatal

[D] Airway Allergies - A Human and Economic Burden

- ✓ The World Allergy Week (WAW) is an annual initiative of the World Allergy Organization (WAO) to raise awareness of allergic disease and related disorders and advocate for the provision of training and resources in the diagnosis, management, and prevention of these diseases and asthma, which are rising in prevalence around the world.
- ✓ The 2019 theme is "The Global Problem of Food Allergy". In 2019, the WAW ran from 7th to 13th April and the focus area was food allergy.

4. Pradeep Choubey, who passed away recently, was the renowned personality in which field?

[A] Politics

[B] Sports

[C] Poetry

[D] Journalism

- ✓ Pradeep Choubey (70), the renowned Hindi poet, has passed away in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh on April 12, 2019. He was the younger brother of celebrated humorist, satirist and poet Shail Chaturvedi.
- ✓ Born on 26th August 1949 in Maharashtra's Chandrapur district, Choubey shifted to Gwalior. He quit his job at Dena Bank to pursue his passion of poetry and travelled across the nation enthralling audiences with his punches, several of them targeted at the orthodox elements of society. Besides humour, he was famous for satirical comments on the system.

5. Which country has developed the world's first armed amphibious drone boat?

[A] China

[B] United States

[C] Russia

[D] Japan

- ✓ China has successfully tested the world's first armed amphibious drone boat 'Marine Lizard' in Wuhan, capital of Central China's Hubei Province.
- ✓ Built by Wuchang Shipbuilding Industry Group under China Shipbuilding Industry Corporation



(CSIC), the drone ship could be used in land assault operations and is capable of forming a combat triad with aerial drones and other drone ships.

- ✓ The Marine Lizard can be remotely controlled via satellites and have a maximum operation range of 1,200 kms. It possesses the capability of forming a combat triad with aerial drones and other drone ships.
- ✓ The Marine Lizard's payloads include an electro-optical system and a radar system. In the weapon department, it is equipped with two machine guns and a vertical launching system for anti-ship and anti-aircraft missiles. This amphibious drone boat can autonomously sail, avoid obstacles and plan routes.

**6. Which Indian sportsperson has clinched the 2019 Dutch International badminton title?**

- [A] Parupalli Kashyap
- [B] Srikanth Kidambi
- [C] **Harsheel Dani**
- [D] B. Sai Praneeth

- ✓ Harsheel Dani from India has clinched the 2019 Dutch International badminton title at Hague in Netherlands. In the final, he defeated Mads Christophersen of Denmark by 15-21, 21-12, 21-13.

**7. The 4th Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific (RCAP) Congress 2019 has started in which of the following cities?**

- [A] Mumbai
- [B] Ahmedabad
- [C] Shimla
- [D] **New Delhi**

- ✓ The 4th Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific (RCAP) Congress 2019 is a platform for discussing the opportunities and mechanisms of executing the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which is started in New Delhi on April 15, 2019.
- ✓ The three-day event is being hosted by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation in association with UN (ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability). This event is being organised in India for the first time and 31 countries are taking part in this programme that was inaugurated by the vice president.

- ✓ The RCAP Congress 2019 is offering cities and regions from Asia-Pacific a variety of innovative solutions that build resilience to climate change at the sub-national level.

**8. India's first foreign interactive and exotic world park has come up in which of the following cities?**

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

- ✓ In Mumbai, EsselWorld launched India's first foreign interactive and exotic world park at the Essel World Bird Park in Gorai. The rain forest themed park is spread across 1.5 acres and is home to over 500 birds belonging to 60 different exotic species.
- ✓ Hence, this is the first bird park in India to host three different varieties of birds – aquatic, terrestrial and free flying birds - across terrains, ranging from rainforests, deserts, rocky decks and lakes, all located within EsselWorld in Gorai.
- ✓ It is equipped with small ponds for aquatic birds, dense cover of trees for birds to incubate their eggs and a water stream that offers drinking water to birds.
- ✓ It also houses a special bird's kitchen and healthcare centre. Some of the key attractions in the park are Ostriches, African grey parrots, Blue gold macaws, Toucans, Black swan and Rainbow lorikeet among others.

**9. The women's safety app "My Circle" has been launched by which of the following telecom companies?**

- [A] Reliance
- [B] **Bharti Airtel**
- [C] BSNL
- [D] Vodafone

- ✓ Telecom operator Bharti Airtel in collaboration with FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) launched a women safety app – My Circle - to help women in case they face any problem or a panic situation.
- ✓ The application is carrier agnostic which would work on phones with any telecom service network, both Airtel and non-Airtel. The app enables women to send SOS alerts to any five of their family or friends

in 13 languages including English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Marathi, Punjabi, Bangla, Urdu, Assamese, Oriya, and Gujarati. A woman in distress can send an SOS alert by pressing the SOS prompt on the app.

- ✓ It can also be activated by voice command through Siri on iOS. It will instantly send an SOS alert along with the user's location over SMS to the five contacts selected by the user and advise them to immediately reach out or respond to the emergency situation.
- ✓ The free-to-download app is now available on Google Play store (Android) and will be available on App Store (iOS) shortly.

10. What is the operational range of the India's first indigenously designed Sub-sonic Cruise Missile 'Nirbhay'?

[A] 500 Km

[B] 1000 Km

[C] 250 Km

[D] 5000 Km

- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has recently successfully test fired the underdevelopment long range subsonic cruise missile 'Nirbhay' from launch complex-3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, Odisha.
- ✓ It has a operational range of 1000 km and can fly very low to the ground to avoid detection by enemy radar called terrain hugging capability.
- ✓ The state-of-the-art missile is the India's first indigenously designed and developed long-range sub-sonic cruise missile. It is capable of loitering and cruising at 0.7 Mach at altitude as low as 100 metre and covered the designated target range in 42 minutes and 23 seconds.

## Winmeen Current Affairs

1. Notre Dame, sometimes seen in news, is located in which country?

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

- ✓ UN cultural experts have recently offered to help in rebuilding the iconic structure of the famed Notre Dame cathedral in Paris.
- ✓ The cathedral is a universal symbol and the centre of France and its devastation has left people across nations shocked. UNESCO World Heritage Centre Director Mechtild Rossler said that the Cathedral is part of the World Heritage site officially known as "Paris, Banks of the Seine", inscribed on the World Heritage List, in 1991'.
- ✓ The Notre Dame represents a historically, architecturally, and spiritually, outstanding universal heritage.
- ✓ It is also a monument of literary heritage. The cathedral, where construction began in the 1160s extending for more than a century, is considered to be the finest example of the French Gothic style of architecture, with its groundbreaking use of rib vaults and buttresses, stained glass rosettes and sculpted ornaments.

2. The historic Mujibnagar day has recently celebrated in which of the following countries?

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

- ✓ In Bangladesh, the historic Mujibnagar has recently celebrated on April 17, 2019. The day marks the oath taking ceremony of Bangladesh's first government in 1971 at Baidyanathtala in Meherpur.
- ✓ On this day in 1971, senior leaders of the liberation movement of Bangladesh had assembled at Baidyanathtala to form the provisional government of independent Bangladesh.

- ✓ Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was declared the President in absentia as he was arrested and flown to Pakistan after the Pakistan military crackdown on the then 'East Pakistan' on the night of March 25, 1971.
- ✓ The day is being observed by political parties and social and cultural organisations through various programs across Bangladesh.

3. Which IIT has found a new method to detect breast and ovarian cancer?

- [A] IIT Kanpur
- [B] IIT Bombay
- [C] IIT Roorkee
- [D] IIT Delhi

- ✓ Researchers at the IIT Roorkee have identified a new method to detect two of the worst forms of cancer in women – breast and ovarian cancer.
- ✓ The research published in the journal, 'FASEB Bioadvances' details the use of whole saliva as a body fluid for early detection of breast and ovarian cancers, as opposed to the traditional method of using blood samples.
- ✓ The research team, led by Professor Kiran Ambatipudi from the institute's biotechnology department, identified certain proteins present in the saliva which act as potential biomarkers indicative of breast and ovarian cancer metastasis.

4. ICC has partnered with which UN organisation to organise #OneDayforChildren at the Men's Cricket World Cup 2019?

- [A] UNIDO
- [B] UNICEF
- [C] FAO
- [D] UNESCO

- ✓ International Cricket Council (ICC) Cricket for Good CC has partnered with UNICEF to organise #OneDayforChildren campaign at the Men's Cricket World Cup 2019.
- ✓ Former England batsman and #OneDay4Children ambassador Nasser Hussain along with all-rounder Chris Woakes launched the tournament-wide campaign focused on bringing the world of cricket

together as one team to help build a better world for every child.

- ✓ There will be #OneDay4Children activity throughout all 48 matches of the event, peaking with a day of celebration during the England v India game on 30 June at Edgbaston.
- ✓ The money raised will support UNICEF's work in cricket playing nations to help children learn to play and be healthy.
- ✓ The tournament will run from 30 May to 14 July. The semi-finals will be played at Old Trafford in Manchester and Edgbaston in Birmingham on 9 and 11 July respectively, while Lord's will host the final on 14 July. The 10 teams in the tournament will play against each other in a single-league format, with the top four sides after 45 matches to qualify for the two semi-finals.

5. The 8th edition of Home Expo India 2019 has started in which of the following cities?

[A] Greater Noida

[B] Pune

[C] Shimla

[D] Kanpur

- ✓ The 8th edition of Home Expo India 2019 began at India Expo Centre and Mart in Greater Noida on April 16.
- ✓ It covers sectors with maximum thrust and growth potential in home decor, furnishing, furniture, flooring and textiles.
- ✓ About 500 companies in permanent marts will be exhibiting their collection under these categories. The 3-day exhibition has been organized by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts.

6. Indo-Pacific Wing, which is in news recently, has set up by which of the following union ministries?

[A] Ministry of External Affairs

[B] Ministry of AYUSH

[C] Ministry of Culture

[D] Ministry of Earth Sciences

- ✓ The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has set up an Indo-Pacific division in the foreign office to integrate the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), ASEAN region and the Quad.

- ✓ The new division is a brainchild of foreign secretary Vijay Gokhale and is intended to give a coherent architecture to the Indo-Pacific policy.
- ✓ It is a big step by the Government and it is expected to give thrust to the Indo-Pacific centred policymaking. The Indo-Pacific Wing is currently headed by joint secretary Vikram Doraiswami.

7. The Human Exploration Rover Challenge 2019 has recently conducted by which of the following space agencies?

[A] Roscosmos

[B] JAXA

[C] ISRO

[D] NASA

- ✓ Three Indian student teams won awards in NASA's 25th edition of Human Exploration Rover Challenge 2019 at the US Space and Rocket Centre in Huntsville, Alabama on April 12-13.
- ✓ The team from KIET Group of Institutions in Ghaziabad won the "AIAA Neil Armstrong Best Design Award" in the college/university division. The Mukesh Patel School of Technology Management and Engineering from Mumbai won the "Frank Joe Sexton Memorial Pit Crew Award" in the college/university division.
- ✓ Lovely Professional University from Phagwara, Punjab, won the STEM Engagement Award. Nearly 100 teams took part in the competition, hailing from 23 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, as well as a record number of countries, including Bangladesh, Germany, India, Mexico, Morocco and Peru.
- ✓ The competition challenges high school and college teams to design, build and test human-powered roving vehicles inspired by the Apollo lunar missions and future exploration missions to the Moon, Mars and beyond.

8. What is the theme of the 2019 World Haemophilia Day (WHD)?

[A] Outreach and Identification

[B] Treatment for All, The Vision of All

[C] Sharing Knowledge Makes Us Stronger

[D] Hear their voices

- ✓ The World Haemophilia Day (WHD) is observed every year on April 17 to increase awareness of haemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders.
- ✓ The 2019 theme 'Outreach and Identification', encourages people to meet and connect with other people who have had similar experiences, and what it is like. It will be observed with the slogan – 'Reaching Out: The First Step to Care'.
- ✓ Haemophilia is an inherited genetic disorder that impairs the body's ability to form clots. This condition is dangerous as it can cause excessive loss of blood in case of injuries, easy bruising, and also bleeding between joints and in the brain. Haemophilia can only be managed but does not have a cure.

9. Which Indian institution has launched a 5G Lab for banking and financial sector?

- [A] IRDA
- [B] SIDBI
- [C] RBI
- [D] NHB

- ✓ The Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT), an arm of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has launched a 5G Use Cases Lab for banking and financial sector.
- ✓ The use of 5G will change a range of technologies and applications including point of sale machines in the banking sector which were now using 2G.
- ✓ The 5G lab will develop and domesticate 5G use cases and set up a research and development experience platform for banking and financial services.
- ✓ It will also collaborate with various stakeholders including banks, government and financial institutions for 5G promotion and absorption of best practices.

10. Dr SK Shivakumar, who passed away recently, was the renowned scientist in which field?

- [A] Biology
- [B] Space
- [C] Chemical
- [D] Mathematics

- ✓ Dr SK Shivakumar, the renowned space scientist and former Indian Space Research Organisation Satellite

Center (ISAC) director, has passed away in Bengaluru on April 14, 2019.

- ✓ He was part of the team that developed the telemetry system for Chandrayaan-I - India's first lunar exploration mission.
- ✓ A native of Mysuru, he was responsible for designing deep space communications equipment. He was involved in the development of the 32-metre dish antenna that can communicate with satellites millions of miles away.



## Winmeen Current Affairs

1. Which country has launched its first satellite 'Raavana-1' into space?

- [A] Maldives
- [B] Indonesia
- [C] Nepal
- [D] Sri Lanka

- ✓ Sri Lanka has launched its first satellite 'Raavana-1' into space from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility on Virginia's East Shore. It weighs around 1.05 kg and the lifespan of the satellite is around one and a half years. The launch marks Sri Lanka's entry into the global space age.
- ✓ Under BIRDS project, the satellite was designed and built at the Kyushu Institute of Technology in Japan by two Sri Lankan research engineers. Its camera mission is to capture images of Sri Lanka and its neighbouring countries.

2. Nepal has successfully launched its first satellite NepaliSat-1 into space under BIRDS project of which country?

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

- ✓ Nepal has successfully launched its first satellite NepaliSat-1 into space from Virginia in the United States. The satellite was developed by the Nepalese scientists. NepaliSat-1 is a low orbit satellite which will be in the 400-km distance from the Earth's surface. It will be stationed at the International Space Station (ISS) for a month and then it will be sent to orbit the earth.
- ✓ The satellite will take photographs on a regular basis to gather geographical information of the country. It weighs 1.3 kilograms, making it a small satellite with limited capability. The Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) initiated the launch of the country's own satellite under the BIRDS project of the Japanese Kyushu Institute of Technology.

- ✓ The BIRDS project has been designed in association with the United Nations (UN) and aims at helping countries launch their first satellite.

3. Rare Kakapo parrots, sometimes seen in news, are found in which of the following countries?

- [A] Vietnam
- [B] India
- [C] New Zealand
- [D] Australia

- ✓ The critically endangered 'Kakapos' - the world's fattest species of parrot - have enjoyed a record breaking breeding season, according to New Zealand's Department of Conservation (DOC). This year, 76 chicks have been hatched under the DOC's conservation scheme, with 60 expected to reach adulthood.
- ✓ This will significantly boost the population which has grown to 147 adults since a small number of the plump green, yellow and black birds were discovered in 1970. The kakapo is an "unusual" parrot as the females control the breeding process and only mate every two to four years when their favourite fruit grows in New Zealand's Rimu trees - the period is known as a "mast year".
- ✓ New Zealand's kakapo recovery programme is so tightly monitored that although they remain in the wild, each one has a radio transmitter attached to its body and there are monitoring systems embedded in their nests. It is claimed that kakapo is probably one of the most intensively managed species in the world.

4. Liquid methane has recently spotted on which satellite in the solar system?

- [A] Triton
- [B] Titan
- [C] Ganymede
- [D] Callisto

- ✓ By using data obtained by NASA's Cassini spacecraft, the researchers discovered deep lakes (more than 300 feet, or 100 meters) filled with methane on Saturn's moon Titan. The team also found "phantom lakes" that fill and empty periodically.

- ✓ It must be noted that Titan is the only known body in our solar system other than Earth with a liquid on its surface. But rather than a water cycle, it has a methane and ethane cycle. The new findings represented further evidence about Titan's hydrological cycle, with liquid hydrocarbons raining down from clouds, flowing across its surface and evaporating back into the sky.
- ✓ This is comparable to Earth's water cycle. Titan, with a diameter of 5,150 km, is the solar system's second largest moon, behind only Jupiter's Ganymede. It is bigger than the planet Mercury. The research was published in the journal Nature Astronomy.

5. What is the theme of the 2019 World Heritage Day (WHD)?

[A] Rural Landscapes

[B] The Heritage of Sport

[C] Heritage for Generations

[D] Protect our Green Heritage

- ✓ The World Heritage Day (WHD) is celebrated every year on April 18 to promote the cultural heritage across the world. The 2019 theme is 'Rural Landscapes'. It is also a day of international solidarity in favor of strengthening and safeguarding heritage world-wide.
- ✓ The day also aims to seek recognition for the people involved in preserving the sites, especially scientists, archaeologists, geographers and engineers. As of 2018, India has 36 World Heritage Sites including Western Ghats, Sundarbans National Park, Taj Mahal, City of Ahmadabad, Nalanda University, Mahabodhi Temple in Bihar and Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh.

6. Who has been named as the goodwill ambassador of the Indian team for the Street Child Cricket World Cup?

[A] Virat Kohli

[B] M S Dhoni

[C] Harmanpreet Kaur

[D] Mithali Raj

- ✓ Ace cricketer Mithali Raj has been named as the goodwill ambassador of the Indian team for the Street Child Cricket World Cup (SCCWC-2019). She

joined former captain Saurav Ganguly and IPL franchise Rajasthan Royals in supporting the team.

- ✓ The Street Child Cricket World Cup (SCCWC-2019) is the first cricket world cup for street-connected children. The tournament is being organised by Street Child United (SCU), a UK based organisation, which has a legacy of holding street child tournaments around major sporting festivals like FIFA World Cup in South Africa, Olympics in Brazil, FIFA World Cup Russia and more.

7. The researchers of which country have successfully printed the world's first 3D heart by using a patient's biological material?

[A] China

[B] Israel

[C] France

[D] United States

- ✓ The researchers at Tel Aviv University have successfully "printed" the world's first three dimensional (3D) vascularised engineered heart using a patient's own cells and biological materials to completely match the immunological, cellular, biochemical, and anatomical properties of the patient.
- ✓ Their findings were published in a study in Advanced Science. Until now, scientists in regenerative medicine have been successful in printing only simple tissues without blood vessels. But the latest feat is the first time scientists have created a complex organ with biological materials.
- ✓ The process of creating the 3D printed heart started with a biopsy of fatty tissue taken from patients. The cellular material from the tissues was used as the "bionic ink" for the print job.
- ✓ That allowed researchers to create complex tissue models including cardiac patches and eventually an entire heart. The proof-of-concept feat could pave the way for a new type of organ transplant.

8. Learning Coin, which is in news recently, is launched by which of the following international organisations?

[A] IMF

[B] AIIB

[C] ADB

[D] UN

- ✓ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) have jointly launched a project called "Learning Coin". It is a private blockchain-based coin and only accessible within IMF and the World Bank to help both multinational agencies learn about the merits of blockchain.
- ✓ The coin project has been launched in order to conduct research and learn more about the core technologies that have been used to implement cryptographic assets such as Bitcoin (BTC) and Ether (ETH).

9. TESS Mission of which space agency has discovered its first Earth-size planet - HD 21749c?

[A] Roscosmos

[B] JAXA

[C] NASA

[D] ISRO

- ✓ The Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) Mission of NASA has discovered its first Earth-size planet - HD 21749c. The newly-discovered planet is about 89% Earth's diameter.
- ✓ The planet is likely very hot, with surface temperatures perhaps as high as 800 degrees F (427 degrees C). It orbits HD 21749, a K-type dwarf star located 53 light-years away in the southern constellation. It is likely a rocky as it circles its parent star in just 7.8 days.
- ✓ This is the 10th confirmed planet discovered by TESS, and hundreds of additional candidates are now being studied.

10. Who has been honoured with the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in fiction category?

[A] Rebecca Makkai

[B] Richard Powers

[C] Clare Barron

[D] Tommy Orange

- ✓ Richard Powers has been honoured with the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in fiction category for his innovative novel 'The Overstory', which shows us the world through the perspective of nature.

## Winmeen Current Affairs

1. Chhyoiphel Kundeling monastery, which is in news recently, is located in which of the following countries?

[A] Nepal

[B] India

[C] Bhutan

[D] Sri Lanka

- ✓ The Chhyoiphel Kundeling Monastery has recently inaugurated by a Buddhist scholar Shyalpa Tenzing Rinpoche at Lisankhu village in Sindhupalchok district in Nepal. The Monastery has been reconstructed with Government of India (GoI) grant of 18.9 million Nepalese rupees. Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India Dr. Ajay Kumar was also present on the occasion.
- ✓ In addition to reconstructing the monastery, the project also included building additional infrastructure such as residences, kitchen, sanitation facilities and compound wall. The Chhyoiphel Kundeling Monastery was established in 1946 with the active initiation and contribution of Lisankhu villagers.
- ✓ It has been carrying out various socio-cultural activities like teaching Buddhism, Thangka painting, wood carving and sculpting etc. Apart from being an important heritage building, the monastery is also an integral part of social and cultural life of people in the area.

2. Mueller report, sometimes seen in news, is associated to which of the following causes?

[A] Glaciers and climate change

[B] Terrorism and responses to terrorism

[C] IPL spot-fixing and betting case

[D] Russian Interference in the 2016 US Presidential Election

- ✓ Russia has recently dismissed the findings of the long-awaited report by US Special Counsel Robert Mueller and said that it failed to present any evidence of Russian meddling in the 2016 US elections.
- ✓ The report titled "Report on the Investigation into Russian Interference in the 2016 Presidential

Election" details extensive contacts between Donald Trump's 2016 campaign and Russian operatives who, it said, sought to tilt the election in Trump's favor. It is the product of a 22-month investigation by Robert Mueller.

- ✓ He was appointed to probe Russian interference in the 2016 elections and possible collusion between Russia and the Trump campaign. The 448-page report did not find evidence of a criminal conspiracy between Trump's 2016 election campaign and Russia.

3. Who has been appointed as new Prime Minister of Israel?

[A] Reuven Rivlin

[B] Benjamin Netanyahu

[C] Benny Gantz

[D] Yisrael Katz

- ✓ Israeli President Reuven Rivlin has formally nominated Benjamin Netanyahu for a fourth consecutive term as prime minister and officially launched a process that is expected to result in a new government dominated by religious and nationalist parties in the coming weeks.
- ✓ Now, Netanyahu has 28 days to form a government, with a possible extension of a further two weeks.
- ✓ The results from the April 9 election put Netanyahu on course to become Israel's longest-serving prime minister later this year, surpassing the state's founding father David Ben-Gurion. If Netanyahu fails to form a coalition within 42 days, Benny Gantz (leader of the rival centrist Blue and White party) would be given a shot at assembling a government.

4. ISO 31000:2018 is a standard related to which of the following tasks?

[A] Information technology

[B] Ships and marine technology

[C] Human resource management

[D] Risk management

- ✓ The Chalamandalam MS General Insurance Company Limited has been certified with ISO 31000:2018 by TUV India for applying a risk management system in line with the standard. The Certificate is an international risk management

standard which provides guidelines, principles, framework, and a process for managing risk.

- ✓ It can be used by any organization regardless of its size, activity or sector. The application of these guidelines can be customized to any organization and its context. It is valid for a period of 3 years from April 07, 2019, to April 06, 2022.

5. Which of the following banks has partnered with M1Xchange TReDS platform for MSME bill discounting?

- [A] Bank of India
- [B] SBI
- [C] Bank of Baroda
- [D] Bank of Maharashtra

- ✓ On April 17, Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has partnered with M1Xchange Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) platform for MSME bill discounting. TReDS is a digital platform to support Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to get their bills financed at a competitive rate through an auction where multiple registered financiers can participate.
- ✓ In addition to TReDS platform of Receivables Exchange of India Ltd (RXIL) & Invoicemart (A.TREDS Ltd), the bank has now on-boarded as financier on the TReDS platform of M1Xchange of Mynd Solutions. Mynd Solutions is a technology management firm which runs the TReDS platform of M1Xchange.
- ✓ The main purpose of TReDS platform is to facilitate smooth flow of liquidity in the system and make finance available at a competitive rate. The cost of funds will be reduced for MSMEs as banks will be bidding based on the risk rating of a corporate.

6. Which Indian cricketer has been appointed brand ambassador of bus ticketing platform 'redBus'?

- [A] Rohit Sharma
- [B] Virat Kohli
- [C] MS Dhoni
- [D] K L Rahul

- ✓ Cricket icon Mahendra Singh Dhoni has been appointed brand ambassador of bus ticketing platform 'redBus'. Dhoni will appear in a hockey player avatar in his first cameo for the brand, slated to be launched soon.

- ✓ According to celebrity managers, Dhoni's brand endorsement deals can be in the range of Rs 3-10 crore, depending on the size of the company he is associated with and the size and duration of the contract. Currently, the cricketer endorses an array of brands across categories, including fantasy sports firm Dream11, Colgate, MasterCard, Orient Fans, Bharat Matrimony, Indigo Paints, SRMB Steel, and health supplement brand Revital H among others.

7. Jerrie Cobb, who passed away recently, was the first female astronaut candidate of which space agency?

- [A] Roscosmos
- [B] NASA
- [C] JAXA
- [D] Canadian Space Agency

- ✓ Jerrie Cobb (88), NASA's first female astronaut candidate, has passed away in Florida on March 18, 2019.
- ✓ In 1961, Cobb became the first woman to pass astronaut testing. Altogether, 13 women passed the arduous physical testing and became known as the Mercury 13.
- ✓ But NASA already had its Mercury 7 astronauts, all test pilots and men. None of the Mercury 13 ever reached space, despite Cobb's testimony in 1962 before a Congressional panel. She wrote in her 1997 autobiography 'Jerrie Cobb, Solo Pilot', 'My country, my culture, was not ready to allow a woman to fly in space'. Cobb also served for decades as a humanitarian aid pilot in the Amazon jungle.

8. Christina Koch, who will set a new record for longest spaceflight by a woman, is the astronaut of which space agency?

- [A] JAXA
- [B] Roscosmos
- [C] NASA
- [D] CNES

- ✓ NASA astronaut Christina Koch will set record for longest single spaceflight by a woman. Her mission on the International Space Station (ISS) has extended to 328 days. Koch arrived at the space station on 14th March 2019, and now is scheduled to remain in orbit



until February 2020. With this, she will eclipse the record of 288 days set by former NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson in 2016-17.

- ✓ As part of the schedule changes two new astronauts, Andrew Morgan and Jessica Meir, will join Koch on the ISS later this year, their first space flights ever. Morgan will also stay at the ISS longer than originally planned, getting there in July and remaining there until mid-2020.
- ✓ By extending the space flights of Koch and Andrew Morgan, NASA will be able to gather more data on the changes to human cognitive and bodily functions to support its future missions to the Moon and Mars.

- ✓ NRIs will now be able to open account in IDBI Bank without submitting paper documents. FATF is an inter-governmental body which devises policy and sets standards to promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.
- ✓ The body has 38 member countries, including the US, UK, India, Japan, China and France, among others.

9. On which date, the 2019 National Civil Services Day is celebrated in India recently?

[A] April 21

[B] April 20

[C] April 22

[D] April 23

- ✓ The National Civil Services Day (NCSD) is organized every year on April 21 in India by civil servants to rededicate themselves to the cause of citizen and renew their commitment to public service and excellence in work.
- ✓ This date is chosen to commemorate the day when the first Home Minister of Independent India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, addressed the probationers of Administrative Services Officers on April 21, 1947 at Metcalf House, Delhi. He referred to civil servants as the 'steel frame of India'.

10. Which of the following banks has launched paperless account opening facility for NRIs?

[A] ICICI Bank

[B] Axis Bank

[C] IDBI Bank

[D] HDFC Bank

- ✓ IDBI Bank has launched the 'NRI-Insta-Online' account-opening process for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) residing in Financial Action Task Force (FATF) member countries. The person will not be required to furnish physical documents and KYC proofs for opening an account with the bank.

## Winmeen Current Affairs

1. A site containing 220-million-year-old fossilized remains of dinosaurs has recently discovered in which country?

- [A] Iran
- [B] Argentina
- [C] New Zealand
- [D] Australia

- ✓ A site containing the 220-million-year-old fossilized remains of nearly a dozen dinosaurs has been discovered in western Argentina. According to Argentinian paleontologist Ricardo Martinez of the University of San Juan, there are almost ten different individuals, with practically no sediment.
- ✓ The discovery is doubly important because there are at least 7 or 8 individuals of dicynodonts, the ancestors of mammals, the size of an ox. There were also remains of archosaurs, reptiles that could be the ancestors of great crocodiles.
- ✓ The find was discovered in September 2018 in San Juan province, about 1,100 kilometres west of Buenos Aires. The site is between one and two metres in diameter and about the same depth, leading scientists to speculate it was a former drinking hole at a time of great drought, and the creatures died of weakness at the spot.
- ✓ Argentina has been a rich source of fossils from the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous eras over the years - of most creatures not found in the northern hemisphere.

2. Who has been appointed as India's new High Commissioner to South Africa?

- [A] Akshay Sen
- [B] Jaideep Sarkar
- [C] Suhel Ajaz Khan
- [D] Manjul Bhargava

- ✓ Jaideep Sarkar, a 1987-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, has been appointed as India's next High Commissioner to South Africa.
- ✓ He is currently serving as India's ambassador in Bhutan and is expected to take up the assignment shortly. He served in Indian Missions in Tokyo, Seoul

and Bangladesh as well. The Union government also appointed Suhel Ajaz Khan as next Ambassador to Lebanon.

3. Who was the author of the Jallianwala Bagh poem 'Khooni Vaisakhi'?

- [A] Karnail Singh
- [B] Vir Singh
- [C] Nanak Singh
- [D] Navdeep Singh

- ✓ A book containing English translation of the 100-year-old classic Punjabi poem about Jallianwala Bagh massacre, 'Khooni Vaisakhi' has been released in Abu Dhabi.
- ✓ India's Ambassador to the UAE Navdeep Singh Suri has commended the launch of a book containing English translation of the Punjabi poem. The poem was translated by Mr Suri whose grandfather, revolutionary poet and novelist Nanak Singh, a Jallianwala Bagh survivor, wrote it after witnessing first-hand the events of April 13, 1919.
- ✓ On this ill-fated day, British troops fired upon crowds of protesters peacefully demonstrating against the Rowlatt Act of the British Raj, leading to the loss of well over a thousand lives.
- ✓ The book was also released in New Delhi on 13th April 2019, marking 100 years since the Jallianwala Bagh massacre that took place in Amritsar.

4. Which of the following banks has become the first public sector bank in India to meet RBI's EMV mandate?

- [A] Canara Bank
- [B] SBI
- [C] PNB
- [D] BoB

- ✓ A global provider of real-time electronic payment and banking solutions, ACI Worldwide has recently announced that Canara Bank has successfully rolled out major new functionality to support EMV (Europay, MasterCard and Visa) card acquiring across its ATM network and Aadhaar Authentication and leverage ACI's UP Retail Payments solution to achieve market firsts. With this, Canara Bank has become the first public sector bank in India to meet RBI's EMV mandate.

- ✓ The EMV shift is aimed at reducing lost and stolen card fraud and making counterfeit card fraud more difficult. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had set a deadline of December 31, 2018 for the switch, mandating use of an embedded chip to replace the traditional magnetic stripe card.
- ✓ ACI's UP Retail Payments solution is based on the Universal Payments (UP) Framework and built on open service-oriented architecture for robust payments orchestration. It supports core payment processing with 24x7 secure payment capabilities.

5. On which date, the 2019 World Liver Day (WLD) is observed recently?

[A] April 19

[B] April 18

[C] April 17

[D] April 16

- ✓ The World Liver Day (WLD) is observed every year on 19th of April to build awareness and understanding how important liver is for our body. The liver is a complex and one of the biggest organs in the body and plays a very important role.
- ✓ Survival without a liver is impossible. All the food that you ingest goes through your liver. The liver plays an important role in the digestion of the food you eat. The organ is located in the upper right part of the abdomen separated from chest cavity by the diaphragm.
- ✓ It measures about 100grams in weight and 15 cm in length. The organ is responsible for the synthesis of various proteins, coagulation factors, cholesterol, triglycerides and bile including glycogenesis. It is also responsible for detoxifications of drugs, alcohol and control of infections.

6. Which country to host the G20 Summit in 2020?

[A] Japan

[B] Saudi Arabia

[C] India

[D] Sri Lanka

- ✓ Saudi Arabia will host the 15th edition of G20 summit in its capital Riyadh, which is scheduled to be held on November 21-22, 2020. This would be the first G20 summit to be hosted by an Arab country.

- ✓ The summit's agenda will include financial, economic and social issues including energy, the environment, climate, the digital economy, trade, agriculture, healthcare, education and labour.
- ✓ The G20 consists of Germany, the US, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, Indonesia, France, South Africa, South Korea, India, the UK, Italy, Japan, Canada, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the European Union.

7. What is the India's rank in the 2019 World Press Freedom Index (WPFI)?

[A] 138th

[B] 108th

[C] 140th

[D] 155th

- ✓ India has slipped two places to rank 140th among 180 nations in the 2019 World Press Freedom Index (WPFI), report released by Reporters Without Borders (RWB), an international NGO based in Paris.
- ✓ The report notes that attacks against journalists by supporters of the ruling BJP increased in the run-up to the ongoing Lok Sabha elections.
- ✓ The index is topped by Norway, followed by Finland, Sweden and the Netherlands. In its 2019 index, RSF finds that hatred of journalists has degenerated into violence, contributing to an increase in fear around the world.
- ✓ In reference to India, it found an alarming rate of coordinated hate campaigns waged on social networks against journalists who dare to speak or write about subjects that annoy Hindutva. The critics are branded as 'anti-national' in the current discourse that is shaping up.
- ✓ The Reporters Without Borders is a non-profit organisation that works to document and combat attacks on journalists around the world.

8. Exercise Varuna 2019 will be conducted between India and which country?

[A] Maldives

[B] Germany

[C] France

[D] United Kingdom

- ✓ India and France will conduct their largest ever naval exercise 'Varuna-2019' off Goa coast and Karwar with an objective of expanding their strategic partnership in the Indian Ocean region (IOR).
- ✓ The exercise will be conducted early May 2019 and will witness the participation of aircraft carriers, destroyers, submarines and fighters. India will deploy its aircraft carrier - INS Vikramaditya with its MiG-29K fighters and French side would be represented by its aircraft carrier FNS Charles de Gaulle with its Rafale-M naval jets.

9. Which of the following Indian Navy ships is / are participating in the International Fleet Review (IFR-2019)?

- [A] INS Vikrant
- [B] **INS Kolkata**
- [C] INS Kamorta
- [D] All of the above

- ✓ Two Indian Navy warships - the stealth guided missile destroyer INS Kolkata and tanker INS Shakti - will participate in the International Fleet Review (IFR) as part of 70TH Anniversary celebrations of PLA (Navy) at Qingdao, China on 23 April, 2019.
- ✓ IFR is a parade of naval ships, aircraft and submarines, and is organised by nations to promote goodwill, strengthen cooperation and showcase their organisational capabilities.
- ✓ IFR also serves as an ideal platform for world's navies to showcase their prowess and indigenous ship designing and ship building capabilities in a global/ international arena.

10. Who has become the India's first female scientist to be elected Royal Society Fellow?

- [A] Rohini Godbole
- [B] **Gagandeep Kang**
- [C] Anna Mani
- [D] Ritu Karidhal

- ✓ The Royal Society of London has announced a list of 51 eminent scientists elected to its fellowship in the year 2019.
- ✓ Among these is Dr. Gagandeep Kang, who is now with the Translational Health Science and Technology

Institute, Faridabad. With this feat, Dr. Kang has become the India's first female scientist to be elected to the Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS).

- ✓ She is known for her inter-disciplinary research studying the transmission, development and prevention of enteric infections and their sequelae in children in India. She has built national rotavirus and typhoid surveillance networks and conducted phase 1-3 trials of vaccines, which has supported two WHO pre-qualified vaccines.

## Winmeen Current Affairs

## 1. Which football team has won the 2019 Santosh Trophy?

- [A] Karnataka
- [B] Goa
- [C] Punjab
- [D] Services

- ✓ In Football, the Services lifted the 2019 Santosh Trophy by defeating Punjab 1-nil in the final at the Guru Nanak Stadium in Ludhiana on 21st April.
- ✓ In the first half, both the teams were goal-less. In the second half, Services scored the lone goal and held on till the final whistle. With this victory, the side has ended the campaign without losing a single match.

## 2. Which Indian armed force has launched guided missile destroyer Imphal?

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

- ✓ The Indian Navy has launched guided missile destroyer INS Imphal at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders in Mumbai on April 20.
- ✓ It's the third state-of-the-art warship built as part of Project 15B, in which ships are built to carry and operate two multiple role helicopters. INS Imphal has a length of 163m and 17.4m at the beam and a displacement of 7,300 tonnes, which are propelled by four gas turbines to achieve speeds in excess of 30 knots.
- ✓ Under Project 15B, the Navy had launched first ship 'INS Vishakhapatnam' in April 2015, while the second ship 'INS Mormugao' was launched in September 2016.

## 3. Who won the 2019 presidency election of Ukraine?

- [A] Petro Poroshenko
- [B] Volodymyr Zelensky
- [C] Leonid Kravchuk
- [D] Viktor Yushchenko

- ✓ In Ukraine, comedian and political newcomer Volodymyr Zelensky has apparently secured a landslide victory in the 2019 Presidential election.

- ✓ Mr Zelensky is best known for starring in a satirical television series 'Servant of the People' in which his character accidentally becomes Ukrainian president.
- ✓ The pressure will now be on Mr Zelensky to demonstrate that he knows what he is doing. Throughout the election campaign, he avoided serious interviews and discussions about policy - preferring instead to post light-hearted videos to social media.

## 4. The Naval Commanders' Conference - 2019 will be held in which of the following cities?

- [A] New Delhi
- [B] Kochi
- [C] Kolkata
- [D] Shimla

- ✓ The first edition of Naval Commanders' Conference - 2019 is scheduled to begin in New Delhi from April 23.
- ✓ The 3-day conference is the apex forum within the Service for interaction between the Naval Commanders. The Chief of the Naval Staff, with the Commanders-in-Chief, will review major operational, logistics, training and administrative activities undertaken during the previous six months and deliberate upon the course to be steered in the ensuing six months.
- ✓ The Conference assumes greater significance in the backdrop of Pulwama associated events that have brought country's defence under sharper focus and will provide the higher naval leadership a forum to discuss the emerging challenges in the maritime domain.
- ✓ The conference also serves as a platform for institutionalised interaction of Naval Commanders with senior Government Officials.

## 5. Amar Paul, who passed away recently, was the legendary folk singer of which language?

- [A] Odia
- [B] Tamil
- [C] Bengali
- [D] Urdu

- ✓ Amar Paul (97), the legendary Bengali folk singer, has passed away in Kolkata on April 20, 2019. Born



on May 19, 1922, at Brahmanbaria in undivided Bengal in an area now in Bangladesh, Paul had started taking music lessons from his mother Durgasundari Paul.

- ✓ Afterwards, he learnt classical music from Ayat Ali Khan and folk music from Mani Chakraborty and Suren Chakraborty. He surfaced as a folk singer for the All India Radio in the early 1950s.
- ✓ Paul lent his voice in a number of films including Satyajit Ray's "Hirak Rajar Deshe". He has penned several books on folk songs of Bengal and received accolades from various academies around the world.

**6. Which country has recently adopted the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2031?**

- [A] Saudi Arabia
- [B] India
- [C] UAE
- [D] Iran

- ✓ The UAE Cabinet has recently adopted a new National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2031 at the Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi.
- ✓ Its aims at positioning the UAE as a global leader in artificial intelligence by 2031 and to develop an integrated system that employs artificial intelligence in vital areas in the country. The strategy includes eight objectives and a number of initiatives, aimed at employing artificial intelligence in vital areas such as education, government services and the community wellbeing.
- ✓ The strategy implementation is overseen by the Emirates Council for Artificial Intelligence and Digital Transactions, in coordination with a number of local and federal entities.

**7. Which Indian movie has won the best cinematography at 2019 Beijing International Film Festival (BIFF)?**

- [A] Kayamkulam Kochunni
- [B] Odiyan
- [C] Bhayanakam
- [D] Eeda

- ✓ Malayalam film Bhayanakam (Fear) directed by Jayaraj has won the best cinematography award at the 2019 Beijing International Film Festival (BIFF). The cinematography was done by Nikihil S Praveen.

- ✓ The film had also won the best cinematography award at the 65th National Film Awards. The film portrays the visits of First World War veteran to a small village in the backwaters of Kerala's Kuttanand as a postman during the World War-II.
- ✓ He shares with the families the good and bad news of the soldiers who took part in the war. According to Jayaraj, about 600 soldiers from Kerala died during the World War-II.
- ✓ The festival also screened five Indian films, including Satyajit Ray's Pather Panchali, Apur Sansar, Aparajito, the romantic comedy Love Per Square Foot, the 2018 Indian romantic comedy and the thriller Ittefaq.

**8. Who has been appointed as a new Chairman of Export Promotion Council for Handicraft (EPCH)?**

- [A] Ravinder Kumar Passi
- [B] B. Ajith Kumar
- [C] Nimisha Sajayan
- [D] Rajesh Sharma

- ✓ Ravinder Kumar Passi has been appointed to the post of chairman of the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH). He succeeded O P Prahladka. EPCH is a non-profit organisation, with an objective to promote, support, protect, maintain and increase the export of handicrafts.

**9. Which UN agency has listed the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy among world's major industrial accidents of 20th century?**

- [A] ILO
- [B] WHO
- [C] FAO
- [D] ITU

- ✓ The International Labour Organization (ILO) has recently released the report titled 'The Safety and Health at the Heart of the Future of Work - Building on 100 years of experience'. In it, the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy which killed thousands of people is among the world's "major industrial accidents" of the 20th century (after 1919).
- ✓ In December 1984, at least 30 tons of methyl isocyanate gas was released from the Union Carbide pesticide plant in the Madhya Pradesh capital and it

affected more than 600,000 workers and nearby inhabitants.

- ✓ Apart from the Bhopal gas tragedy, its list included the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear power plant explosion in the erstwhile Soviet Union, the 2011 Fukushima disaster and the collapse of the Rana Plaza building in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in 2013, which killed 1,132 people.

10. What is the theme of the 2019 World Earth Day(WED)?

[A] Protect our species

[B] Nature for Water

[C] Better Water, Better Jobs

[D] Water and Energy

- ✓ The World Earth Day (WED) is observed every year on 22nd of April to demonstrate support for environmental protection. This is a day which is meant to emphasise the need to protect the planet and preserve its environment.
- ✓ The day also marks the anniversary of the Modern Environmental Movement, started in 1970. The 2019 theme is 'Protect our species', which aims to draw attention to the rapid extinction of species across the world.

## Winmeen Current Affairs

1. Which scheme of the West Bengal government has won the 2019 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) award in Capacity Building category?

- [A] Sabooj Sathi
- [B] Kanyashree
- [C] Utkarsh Bangla
- [D] All of the above

- ✓ The 'Utkarsh Bangla' scheme of the West Bengal government has won the prestigious 2019 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) award of the United Nations. The scheme aims to create a pool of skilled candidates industry ready.
- ✓ Out of 1062 nominations in 18 categories from all over the world, Utkarsh Bangla emerged No 1 in the Capacity Building category to win this prestigious award of WSIS.
- ✓ Earlier, in 2017, the West Bengal government had received another UN award for its 'Kanyashree' project, a targeted conditional cash transfer scheme aimed at promoting education among girls. WSIS Prizes is an international contest to create an effective mechanism to evaluate and recognise individuals, governments and private bodies for outstanding success in implementing development oriented strategies that leverage the power of ICTs as an enabler of the development.

2. Which country has been nominated as the "Guest of Honour" country at the 29th edition of the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF)?

- [A] Saudi Arabia
- [B] Oman
- [C] Israel
- [D] India

- ✓ India has been nominated as the "Guest of Honour" country at the 29th edition of the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF-2019) which begins on April 24. Here, India's selection as the guest of honour reflects the strong relations between the leadership and the people of the UAE and India. Around 30 publishing houses from India will take part in the fair.

- ✓ A three-member team from the Publications Division is also participating in the Fair. Books on the life and struggle of Mahatma Gandhi will be on display as part of the 150th birth anniversary celebrations.
- ✓ A special presentation will be made by the Publications Division on the 100 volume series of the Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi in a bid to reach out to the international audience. An annual fair is a major event in the publishing sector in the Middle East and North Africa. It will conclude on the 30th of this month.

3. Which Indian sportsperson has clinched India's first gold at the 2019 Asian Wrestling Championship?

- [A] Parveen Rana
- [B] Bajrang Punia
- [C] Satywart Kadian
- [D] Yogeshwar Dutt

- ✓ World No.1 Bajrang Punia made India proud once again by clinching the India's first gold at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2019 in Xi'an, China. Punia logged 10 points in a row in the gold medal bout to reclaim his Asian Championship crown.
- ✓ He defeated Kazakhstan's Sayatbek Okassov 12-7 in a nail-biting 65kg men's freestyle final. It is Bajrang's second gold at this championship, having won one in 2017. Another Indian Parveen Rana, lost to Bahman Mohammad Teymouri of Iran in the final 0-3 in 79kg category securing a silver medal. In 97 Kg category, Satywart Kadian picked a bronze defeating Haobin Gao of China by 8-2.

4. On which date, the UN English Language Day is observed recently?

- [A] April 22
- [B] April 25
- [C] April 23
- [D] April 24

- ✓ The UN English Language Day is observed every year on 23rd of April to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as to promote equal use of all six official languages throughout the Organization.
- ✓ These are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. For the English language, 23 April was

chosen because it is the date traditionally observed as both the birthday and date of death of William Shakespeare.

**5. Which Indian sportsperson has clinched India's first Gold in the 2019 Asian Athletics Championships in Doha?**

- [A] Hima Das
- [B] Dutee Chand
- [C] **Gomathi Marimuthu**
- [D] Krishna Poonia

- ✓ Gomathi Marimuthu from Tamil Nadu has clinched India's first Gold in the women's 800m race at the 2019 Asian Athletics Championships in Doha, Qatar. Gomathi clocked a personal best time of 2 minute 02.70 seconds in the half mile event to win a surprise gold for India.
- ✓ Then, Asian Games champion Tajinder Pal Toor added the 2nd gold medal to India's tally by clinching the top spot in the podium in men's shot put with a season's best throw of 20.22 metres. While Shivpal Singh added a silver in men's javelin throw by sending the spear to a distance of 86.23m, his personal best.
- ✓ In the process, Shivpal also booked a berth for the World Championships to be held at the same venue in September-October as he crossed the qualifying mark of 83m.

**6. Which space agency has revealed that Mercury has a massive solid inner core?**

- [A] CNES
- [B] **NASA**
- [C] ISRO
- [D] JAXA

- ✓ Scientists have long been known that Mercury and the Earth have metallic cores. Like Earth, Mercury's outer core is composed of liquid metal, but there have only been hints that Mercury's innermost core is solid.
- ✓ Now, in a new study, scientists from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland have found evidence that Mercury's inner core is indeed solid and that it is very nearly the same size as Earth's inner core.

- ✓ To explore what the core of Mercury is made of the science team used several observations from the NASA's MESSENGER (Mercury Surface, Space Environment, GEochemistry, and Ranging) mission looking at the planet's spin and gravity.
- ✓ The findings of Mercury's solid inner core not only help scientists better understand Mercury but also offer clues about how the solar system formed and how rocky planets change over time. The study is published in Geophysical Research Letters.

**7. Which African country has launched the pilot tests for the world's first malaria vaccine "RTS-S"?**

- [A] Ghana
- [B] **Malawi**
- [C] Kenya
- [D] Zimbabwe

- ✓ The Government of Malawi has launched the pilot tests for the world's first malaria vaccine - RTS,S (or Mosquirix) - to give partial protection to children up to 2 years of age. The other two African countries - Ghana and Kenya - will introduce the vaccine in the coming weeks.
- ✓ This move is part of World Health Organization (WHO)-coordinated three country pilot programme where the risk of malaria is high and there has been previous success with other childhood vaccines. It aims to reach 360,000 children per year across the three countries.
- ✓ The vaccine has been developed by British drugmaker GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) in partnership with the PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative. According to WHO, Malaria kills some 435,000 people around the world each year, the majority of them children. Most of these deaths are in Africa, where more than 250,000 children die from the disease every year.

**8. Who has been conferred with the National Intellectual Property Award for 2019 in the category of Top Individual for Patents and Commercialization?**

- [A] Jomy Jose
- [B] **Benny Antony**
- [C] P.J Kunjachan
- [D] Merina Benny

- ✓ Dr. Benny Antony, co-founder of Kochi-based Arjuna Natural Ltd, has been conferred with the National Intellectual Property Award for 2019 in the category of Top Individual for Patents and Commercialization.
- ✓ Along with the National IP Award, the Intellectual Property Office India and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) have jointly conferred the 'WIPO Medal for Inventors' also to Antony.
- ✓ The Indian Intellectual Property Office bestows National Intellectual Property (IP) awards to outstanding innovators, organisations and companies in the field of patents, designs, trademarks and geographical indications on the occasion of World IP Day every year.
- ✓ Antony is the inventor of the world's leading patented turmeric extract formulation "BCM-95" and also has over 80 international patents to his credit.

9. On which date, the 2019 National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD) is celebrated in India?

[A] April 25

[B] April 26

[C] April 24

[D] April 22

- ✓ The National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD) is celebrated every year in India on April 24 by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. It is also known as the National Local Self-Government day. On this day, in 1993, the 73rd Constitution Amendment Act of 1992 came into force that has institutionalized Panchayati Raj through the village, Intermediate and District level Panchayats.

10. What is the India's rank in the 2019 Index of Cancer Preparedness (ICP)?

[A] 19th

[B] 20th

[C] 15th

[D] 13th

- ✓ The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has released the 2019 Index of Cancer Preparedness (ICP) in which India's overall rank is 19th out of 28 countries, with a

score of 64.9. Australia topped the index, followed by the Netherlands and Germany.

- ✓ The ICP explores the issue of cancer preparedness through three broad domains: Policy and planning; Care delivery; and Health systems and governance.
- ✓ It was released as part of the report titled "Cancer preparedness around the world: National readiness for a global epidemic" prepared by EIU.



## Winmeen Current Affairs

1. Hope Probe project, sometimes seen in news, is associated to which of the following countries?

[A] Pakistan

[B] Israel

[C] India

[D] UAE

- ✓ The UAE Space Agency and Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) have recently announced that 85% of the Hope Probe project has been completed. Hope Probe is an ambitious dream project of UAE to send a mission to Mars.
- ✓ Hope Probe is scheduled to be launched in July 2020. With a successful launch, UAE hopes to become the first Arabic and Islamic country to make the Mars Mission dream a reality. The Hope Probe has been developed in accordance with Mars Exploration Programme Analysis Group (MEPAG), the global scientific community which is working on Mars exploration and coordinated with international entities to ensure the best results.
- ✓ The objectives of the Emirates Mars Mission will be to add to the global efforts to explore space and the surrounding planets. For the first time, a Mars exploration project will be able to take a global picture of the Martian atmosphere.
- ✓ It will do so by taking an integrated picture of the atmosphere throughout the day and for a long period of time, helping to create a better understanding of the planet's atmosphere in different seasons of the year.

2. Which of the following IT services companies has signed a deal with India Post to transform country's mail delivery system?

[A] TCS

[B] Wipro

[C] Infosys

[D] HCL

- ✓ India's largest IT services company, Tata Consultancy Services(TCS) has partnered with the Department of Posts (DoP) to modernise a network of more than 1.5 lakh post offices across the country.

- ✓ The multi-year digital core programme will transform the DoP into a multi-service digital hub, modernise the delivery of mail and packages, enhance customer experience and launch innovative services that will drive new revenues. At the heart of this transformation is the Core System Integration (CSI) program designed and implemented by TCS.
- ✓ This involved deploying an integrated ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) solution that caters to mail operations, finance and accounting, and HR functions. Besides, it will also connect the network of more than 1.5 lakh post offices to make this largest distributed ePostal network in the world.
- ✓ The integrated solution is built to cater to the Department's immense scale, and future needs. It supports the HR needs of over 500,000 employees, services over 40,000 concurrent users, and processes over 3 million postal transactions a day.

3. Iran and which country have decided to set up a Joint Border Reaction Force (JBRF)?

[A] India

[B] Pakistan

[C] Russia

[D] Turkmenistan

- ✓ Iran and Pakistan have decided to set up a Joint Border Reaction Force (JBRF) following a number of deadly attacks by militant groups on their frontier. The announcement comes following tensions between the two countries who have in recent months accused each other of not doing enough to stamp out militants allegedly sheltering across the border.
- ✓ The The Iran-Pakistan border skirts the volatile southeastern Iranian province of Sistan-Baluchistan which has been the scene of frequent attacks on Iran's security forces.

4. Which union ministry has signed MoU with CSIR for cooperation in research and education?

[A] Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

[B] Ministry of Women and Child Development

[C] Ministry of AYUSH

[D] Ministry of Human Resource Development

- ✓ The Ministry of AYUSH has recently signed a MoU with Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR –New Delhi) for cooperation in research and education in areas of traditional systems of medicine and its integration with modern science.
- ✓ Under the MoU, both organizations shall jointly endeavor to pursue: R&D covering fundamental research; AYUSH specific diagnostic tools; linking microbiome, gene expression and prakriti; multi-ingredient herbal formulations, including their standardization; exploring modern scientific methods for integration with traditional Indian Systems of Medicine (ISM); linking disease signatures, etc.

5. Which airborne observatory has detected the Universe's first molecule in space?

- [A] Galileo Airborne Observatory
- [B] Kuiper Airborne Observatory
- [C] Big Bear Lake Solar Observatory

[D] Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy

- ✓ The researchers have finally detected the most ancient type of molecule in our universe in space for the first time ever. They used NASA's Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) to detect helium hydride in a planetary nebula NGC 7027 about 3,000 light-years away from Earth.
- ✓ Helium hydride ion ( $\text{HeH}^+$ ) was the first molecule that formed when, almost 14 billion years ago, falling temperatures in the young universe allowed recombination of the light elements produced in the Big Bang. At that time, ionised hydrogen and neutral helium atoms reacted to form  $\text{HeH}^+$ .
- ✓ Despite its importance in the history of the early Universe,  $\text{HeH}^+$  has so far escaped detection in astrophysical nebulae — cloud of gas and dust in outer space. Hence, the detection of this special molecule brings a long search to a happy ending, and eliminates doubts about understanding of the underlying formation and destruction of the early universe. SOFIA is the joint project of NASA and the German Aerospace Center (DLR) to construct and maintain an airborne observatory.
- ✓ Being the world's largest airborne astronomical observatory, the telescope has the ability to produce

a higher resolution image, three times higher in quality than those captured by other observatories.

6. The world's tallest 131ft indoor waterfall has opened in which of the following countries?

- [A] Vietnam
- [B] Singapore
- [C] Indonesia
- [D] Malaysia

- ✓ The world's tallest 131 ft indoor waterfall has opened for the general public at Singapore's Jewel Changi Airport.. The waterfall is housed inside a dome-shaped complex which has gardens growing over four storeys, more than 280 retail and food outlets, a hotel and a movie theatre.
- ✓ The structure also has a botanical garden with 120 species of plants. The dome-shaped glass structure was designed by Israeli-Canadian architect Moshe Safdie.

7. On which date, the 2019 World Book and Copyright Day (WBCD) is observed recently?

- [A] April 21
- [B] April 22
- [C] April 24
- [D] April 23

- ✓ The World Book and Copyright Day (WBCD) is observed every year on April 23 to recognise the scope of books which are seen as a link between the past and the future, a bridge between cultures and generations.
- ✓ It is an occasion to promote the joy of books and the art of reading. Through this day, UNESCO aims to champion books and celebrate creativity, diversity and equal access to knowledge.
- ✓ 23rd April was selected by UNESCO to pay tribute to great literary figures including William Shakespeare, Miguel Cervantes and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega who died on this day in 1616.

8. Which of the following cities has been declared the 2019 World Book Capital (WBC)?

- [A] New York
- [B] Sharjah

[C] Kolkata

[D] Berlin

- ✓ The World Book and Copyright Day (WBCD) is celebrated worldwide on 23rd April to pay tribute to the veteran literary figures like William Shakespeare, Miguel Cervantes and Inca Garcilaso De La Vega.
- ✓ It is a symbolic date in world literature. On this day, UNESCO and organisations representing publishers, booksellers and libraries select World Book Capital (WBC) for a year to maintain the celebrations of books and reading.
- ✓ For the year 2019, Sharjah, UAE has been declared as the World Book Capital. It will be preceded by Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in the year 2020.

9. The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) has established a new academic position in honor of which Indian-born philosopher and economist?

[A] Debraj Ray

[B] Jiddu Krishnamurti

[C] Shankar Acharya

[D] Amartya Sen

- ✓ The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) has established the Amartya Sen Chair in Inequality Studies to honour the Indian-born economist, philosopher and Nobel laureate. The chair will provide coordination and strategic leadership on the inter-disciplinary analysis of inequalities at LSE.
- ✓ Besides, it will connect research on inequalities across the School, engage with the public and policy-makers, and develop and supports new world-class research. Amartya Sen served as a professor in the economics department at the institute from 1971-82.
- ✓ It was in the year 1998, Amartya Sen won the Nobel Prize in the field of Economics. He also won National Humanities Medal in the year 2012. Amartya Sen's main areas of work include welfare economics, social choice theory, development economics, political philosophy and economic theory. The holder of the Amartya Sen chair, will also serve as Director of the LSE International Inequalities Institute (III).

10. The Asian Tea Alliance (ATA) has recently launched in which of the following cities?

[A] Tokyo

[B] Guwahati

[C] Guizhou

[D] Seoul

- ✓ The Asian Tea Alliance (ATA), a union of five tea-growing and consuming countries, was launched on Friday in Guizhou in China. The members of the alliance are the Indian Tea Association (ITA), China Tea Marketing Association (CTMA), Indonesian Tea Marketing Association, Sri Lanka Tea Board and Japan Tea Association.
- ✓ ATA plans to work towards enhancing tea trade, cultural exchanges, technology exchanges as well as globally promoting tea. It will also work towards enhancing global consumption of tea, while creating a sustainability agenda for the future of Asian tea.
- ✓ The forging of this alliance comes in the aftermath of the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in December 2018 between the Indian Tea Association and China Tea Marketing Association.
- ✓ The two associations signed the pact to promote green and black tea consumption in major tea markets of Europe, the U.S., Russia and West Asia, besides India and China.

## Winmeen Current Affairs

## 1. What is the theme of the 2019 World Malaria Day (WMD)?

[A] Zero malaria starts with me

[B] Ready to beat malaria

[C] Sustain Gains, Save Lives: Invest in Malaria

[D] Invest in the future: defeat malaria

- ✓ The World Malaria Day (WMD) is observed every year on 25th of April to raise awareness and funds for the treatment and prevention of the disease. The day also highlights the need for sustained investment and political commitment for malaria prevention, control and elimination.
- ✓ As part of the WMD 2019, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has launched grassroots campaign 'Zero malaria starts with me' to keep malaria high on the political agenda, mobilize additional resources, and empower communities to take ownership of malaria prevention and care.

## 2. What is the India's rank in the StartupBlink's 2019 Startup Ecosystem Ranking?

[A] 20<sup>th</sup>

[B] 19<sup>th</sup>

[C] 18<sup>th</sup>

[D] 17<sup>th</sup>

- ✓ The global startup ecosystem map StartupBlink has released its latest 2019 Startup Ecosystem Ranking.
- ✓ In it, India has been ranked 17th out of 100 countries, based on the strength of its startup ecosystem. The index is topped by United States, followed by UK, Canada, Israel, and Australia. The ranking is carried out on the basis the impact startups have been able to make in the country.
- ✓ Additionally, it has also considered how many startups and support organisations are there such as accelerators, coworking spaces, startup events along with technology infrastructure, red tape, bureaucracy, etc.
- ✓ It used data from startups, accelerators and co-working spaces registered on its platforms as well as data received from global partners such as Crunchbase and SimilarWeb.

- ✓ StartupBlink also ranked cities globally in its top 25-city ranking that included Bengaluru at 11 and New Delhi at 18 and Mumbai at 29.

## 3. Which of the following central banks is the first Asia-Pacific (APAC) central bank to begin interest rate easing cycle?

[A] Central Bank of Sri Lanka

[B] Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan

[C] Reserve Bank of India

[D] People's Bank of China

- ✓ Fitch Ratings has recently said in its APAC sovereign credit overview report that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is the first Asia-Pacific (APAC) central bank to begin interest rate easing cycle by cutting the policy rate back-to-back in the last two monetary policy reviews in 2019.
- ✓ The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, cut rates in February and April, citing prospects of benign inflation. In the four months of 2019, the RBI has cut policy interest rates twice by 0.25% each to one-year low of 6%.
- ✓ Earlier in April 2019, Fitch Ratings kept India's rating unchanged for the 13th time in a row at BBB-, which is the lowest investment grade, along with a stable outlook. The agency cited various challenges faced by the country such as high public debt, weak financial sector and lagging structural reforms.

## 4. Which of the following banks has become the first Destination Bank to launch debit card-based e-mandate on NPCI's API platform?

[A] ICICI Bank

[B] Kotak Mahindra Bank

[C] HDFC Bank

[D] Axis Bank

- ✓ The Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB) has become the first Destination Bank to go live with Net Banking and Debit Card-based authentication solution on NPCI's e-Mandate API platform. The facility will enable its customers to create electronic mandates (similar to the erstwhile eNACH with Aadhaar + OTP) via both the Debit Card and Net Banking channels.

- ✓ This allows Kotak to go live as a sponsor or acquirer bank for corporates and merchants seeking recurring payments. In a first-of-its-kind initiative in the industry, customers can register both physical and e-mandates on a single platform with validation on the mandate fields to remove rejections on account of various reasons.

5. As per which committee's recommendations, the RBI has sold its entire stake in NHB & Nabard to Union Government?

[A] M P Bezbarauah Committee

[B] Narasimham Committee-II

[C] N K Singh Committee

[D] Usha Thorat Committee

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has divested its entire stake in National Housing Bank (NHB) and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) for Rs 1,450 crore and Rs 20 crore, respectively.
- ✓ The move is part of ending the cross-holding in regulatory institutions and follows the recommendation of second Narasimham committee report of October 2001 and the RBI's own discussion paper on the same entitled 'Harmonizing the role and operations of development financial institutions and banks.'
- ✓ The current change in the capital structure of both these financial institutions was brought in by the government through amendments to the Nabard Act of 1981 and the NHB Act of 1987 which were notified on January 19, 2018 and March 29, 2018, respectively. With this, the Government of India (GoI) now holds 100% stake in both these financial institutions.

6. Which country has successfully tested the world's first Floating Nuclear Power Plant (FNPP)?

[A] United States

[B] China

[C] Japan

[D] Russia

- ✓ Russian state-run atomic energy corporation Rosatom has successfully tested the world's first Floating Nuclear Power Plant (FNPP) – Akademik

Lomonosov. The FNPP has a capacity of 70MW and is equipped with two reactors of 35MW each.

- ✓ It has an operational life span is 40 years, with the possibility of being extended up to 50 years. According to Rosatom, in the second half of 2019, the FNPP will be transported to its final destination to the port of Pevek in Russia's extreme north-eastern region of Chukotka, where it will replace the Bilibino Nuclear Power Plant and the Chaunskaya coal-fired power plant.
- ✓ An FNPP is basically a mobile, low-capacity reactor unit operable in remote areas isolated from the main power distribution system, or in places hard to access by land. They are designed to maintain both uninterrupted power and plentiful desalinated water supply in remote areas.

7. Who has been named as brand ambassador of Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC)?

[A] Vikas Khanna

[B] Akshay Kumar

[C] Anupam Kher

[D] Sushant Singh Rajput

- ✓ Michelin-star chef and filmmaker Vikas Khanna has been named as brand ambassador of Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC) at the Consulate General of India in New York City. The IAAC will organise the New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF -2019) that will showcase 30 Indian feature-length films, including three documentaries. It will also bring to the audience of New York 30 shorts and 19 regional films, including Bengali, Assamese, Marathi, Tamil, Malayalam cinema.
- ✓ The fest is the North America's longest-running and most prestigious Indian film festival from May 7 to 12. It will also showcase the celebrity chef's film 'The Last Color' and Nawazuddin Siddiqui-starrer 'Photograph'.
- ✓ Khanna's 'The Last' has won rave reviews at various international film festivals for its lead actress Neena Gupta, who plays a widow living a life of abstinence and isolation in the ancient Indian city of Banaras.

8. Who is the newly appointed Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA)?



[A] Tajinder Pal Singh

[B] Nirmal Jain

[C] **Rajendra Kumar Nayak**

[D] Vineet Sharma

- ✓ Rajendra Kumar Nayak, the 1983 batch officer of Indian Defence Accounts Service, has been appointed as the new Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA).
- ✓ With over 35 years of experience, Nayak has held important assignments in the Defence Accounts Department and on deputation in the Government of India. He has vast and varied experience in handling Finance, Personnel, Pay & Budget matters of Ministry of Defence.
- ✓ The CGDA heads the Defence Accounts Department (DAD) and operates under the Ministry of Defence. It is the cadre controlling authority of the Indian Defence Accounts Service.

9. Cyril Almeida, who won the 2019 IPI World Press Freedom Hero award, is from which country?

[A] **Pakistan**

[B] Iran

[C] Myanmar

[D] Bangladesh

- ✓ Pakistani journalist Cyril Almeida has won the World Press Freedom Hero award of The International Press Institute (IPI) for his critical and tenacious coverage of the civil-military relations in Pakistan.
- ✓ Almeida is an assistant editor and columnist at Pakistani daily 'Dawn' & is currently facing sedition charges in the country.
- ✓ The IPI is a global network of editors, media executives and leading journalists in over 100 countries.
- ✓ IPI's World Press Freedom Hero Award honours journalists who have made critical contributions to the promotion of press freedom, particularly in the face of great personal risk.

10. Who has won the 2019 Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize?

[A] Menka Shivdasani

[B] Neel Mukherjee

[C] **Rana Dasgupta**

[D] Jayanta Mahapatra

- ✓ Rana Dasgupta has won the 2nd edition of Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2019 for his 2010 novel "Solo", a tale of estrangement and the ultimate failure of material existence.
- ✓ The award consists of an amount of \$10,000, a Tagore statue and a certificate. Beside this, the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize for social achievement was awarded to Yohei Sasakawa, the World Health Organization Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination, for "his incredible efforts to uproot leprosy and great contribution to world peace".
- ✓ The Prize was also awarded to Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen as "a beacon of democracy".

## Winmeen Current Affairs

1. The 5th Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Preparedness has started in which of the following cities?

- [A] New Delhi
- [B] Colombo
- [C] Kathmandu
- [D] Thimphu

- ✓ The 5th Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Preparedness has started in Kathmandu, Nepal on April 26, 2019.
- ✓ The theme of the two-day summit is "Media Solutions for Sustainable Future: Saving Lives, Building Resilient Communities".
- ✓ The basic aim of the summit is to address the issue of fully utilizing media's potential of accelerating climate action and disaster preparedness and connect stakeholders to media professionals for collaboration and joint practical projects.
- ✓ Over 200 participants including political leaders, representatives of UN agencies and NGOs, climate change and disaster management experts, scientists and media persons are attending the event.

2. What is the theme of 2019 World Intellectual Property Day (WIPD)?

- [A] Digital Creativity: Culture Reimagined
- [B] Powering Change: Women in Innovation and Creativity
- [C] Innovation — Improving Lives
- [D] Reach for Gold: IP and Sports

- ✓ The World Intellectual Property Day (WIPD) is observed every year on April 26 across the globe to spread awareness about the role that intellectual property rights like patents, trademarks, industrial designs and copyright play in encouraging innovation and creativity.
- ✓ It aims to increase people's awareness and understanding of the intellectual property. The main purpose of intellectual property law is to encourage the creation of a large variety of intellectual goods for consumers.

- ✓ The 2019 theme is 'Reach for Gold: IP and Sports'. Intellectual property refers to creations of the mind, inventions, literary and artistic works, and symbols, names and images used in commercial activities.

3. Divyansh Singh Panwar, who secured 2020 Tokyo Olympic quota, is associated to which sports?

- [A] Judo
- [B] Shooting
- [C] Boxing
- [D] Wrestling

- ✓ On 26th April, Divyansh Singh Panwar bagged silver in 10m Air Rifle event with 249.0 points in the 2019 ISSF World Cup for pistol and rifle shooters in Beijing.
- ✓ He also secured a quota for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. In the ongoing tournament, Divyansh had bagged a gold in 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team event along with Anjum Moudgil.
- ✓ This is India's fourth 2020 Tokyo Olympic quota after Anjum Moudgil and Apurvi Chandela (10m air rifle women) and Saurabh Choudhary (10m Air Pistol men) had secured berths in the earlier World Cups and last year's World Championship.

4. Which of the following banks has launched India's first 'Green Car Loan' at lower interest rates?

- [A] SBI
- [B] ICICI Bank
- [C] PNB
- [D] Axis Bank

- ✓ The State Bank of India (SBI) has launched India's first 'Green Car Loan' (Electric Vehicle) to encourage customers to buy electric vehicles. The new scheme will offer loan at 20 basis points lesser than the interest rate on the existing car loan schemes. Additionally, borrowers will also get a longer repayment period.
- ✓ The EMI per Rs 1 lakh will be lower at Rs. 1,468 for 96 months against Rs.1,622 for 84 months, based on the maximum tenor, in line with the existing scheme. The move is in line with the Union Government's endeavour to ensure that India has 30% of EVs out of all vehicles by 2030.

5. The scientists of which country have successfully created the first-ever artificial crater on an asteroid 'Ryugu'?

[A] United States

[B] Japan

[C] China

[D] Australia

- ✓ The Japanese scientists have successfully created the first-ever artificial crater on an asteroid 'Ryugu'. It's a step towards shedding light on how the solar system evolved.
- ✓ The announcement comes after the Hayabusa2 probe fired an explosive device at the Ryugu asteroid early this month to blast a crater in the surface and scoop up material.
- ✓ The aim of blasting the crater on Ryugu is to throw up "fresh" material from under the asteroid's surface that could shed light on the early stages of the solar system.
- ✓ The asteroid is thought to contain relatively large amounts of organic matter and water from some 4.6 billion years ago when the solar system was born. The Ryugu asteroid is around 340 million kilometers from Earth.

6. What is the theme of the 2019 World Immunization Week (WIW)?

[A] Protected Together: Vaccines Work

[B] Beat Diabetes

[C] Immunization saves lives

[D] Protect your world – get vaccinated

- ✓ The 2019 World Immunization Week (WIW) is a global public health campaign i.e. celebrated by the World Health Organisation (WHO) from April 24 to 30 with theme "Protected Together: Vaccines Work!".
- ✓ The week highlights the urgent need for immunisation against vaccine-preventable diseases for children and adults the world over. The 2019 theme aims to raise awareness about the importance of full immunization throughout life and urge greater action.
- ✓ This year's campaign emphasizes the role and responsibility of everyone—policymakers, health workers, and individuals—in closing the

immunization gap to protect children and broader communities.

7. Indonesia has recently released a special Ramayana themed stamp to mark 70 years of diplomatic ties with India. It was designed by which of the following sculptors?

[A] Arie Smit

[B] Ramkinkar Baij

[C] Bapak Nyoman Nuarta

[D] Kartika Affandi

- ✓ Indonesia has recently released a special commemorative stamp on the theme of Ramayana to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of its diplomatic ties with India.
- ✓ The stamp is designed by renowned Indonesian sculptor Padmashri Bapak Nyoman Nuarta. It featured a scene from Ramayana in which Jatayu valiantly fought to save Sita, which symbolises the resolve of two peoples in the face of adversity.
- ✓ A specially signed version of the stamp will be on display at the Philately Museum in Jakarta.

8. BepiColombo, sometimes seen in news, is associated to which of the following space agencies?

[A] NASA

[B] JAXA

[C] ISRO

[D] CNES

- ✓ The unmanned BepiColombo spacecraft is the joint mission of the European-Japanese space agencies. It is named after Italian scientist Giuseppe "Bepi" Colombo. Recently, it has successfully completed its near-Earth commissioning phase and is now ready for the operations that will take place during the cruise and for its scientific investigations at Mercury.
- ✓ The mission comprises two science orbiters: ESA's Mercury Planetary Orbiter (MPO) and JAXA's Mercury Magnetospheric Orbiter (MMO). The ESA-built Mercury Transfer Module (MTM) will carry the orbiters to Mercury using a combination of solar electric propulsion and gravity assist flybys – one of Earth, two at Venus, and six at Mercury – prior to MPO and MMO orbit insertions.

- ✓ Earlier, on 20th October 2018, BepiColombo started its 7-year long journey to the Solar System's innermost planet from an Ariane 5 rocket from Europe's spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana.
- ✓ Since launch, BepiColombo has already covered over 450 million km – just about 4% of the total distance it will have to travel before arriving at Mercury at the end of 2025. The composite spacecraft is now some 50 million km from Earth, and tele-commands take about 3 minutes to reach it.

9. Which former army chief has been appointed as India's new high commissioner to Seychelles?

[A] Dalbir Singh

[B] Bikram Singh

[C] Joginder Jaswant Singh

[D] Deepak Kapoor

- ✓ General (Retd.) Dalbir Singh Suhag has been appointed as India's new high commissioner to the Republic of Seychelles. He is expected to take up the assignment shortly. His appointment comes amid deepening military ties between India and the island nation.
- ✓ Incidentally, Suhag was the chief of army staff when India conducted surgical raids across the Line of Control into Pakistan-administered Kashmir in 2016 after the terrorist attack on an Indian army camp in Uri.
- ✓ Seychelles is strategically important to India as New Delhi is developing Assumption Island as a naval base to expand its footprint in the strategically-key region where China has been trying to enhance its military presence.

10. Where is the headquarters of Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB)?

[A] Hyderabad

[B] New Delhi

[C] Kolkata

[D] Chennai

- ✓ The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has decided to fund the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) and the National Research Centre on Meat (NRCM) for research on cell-based meat, which can also be called clean meat or cultured meat.

- ✓ It is nutritionally equivalent to conventional meat, and tastes, smells, looks and feels exactly like real meat. The only difference lies in the method of production. The advantage of cell-based meat is that animals won't be slaughtered.
- ✓ Rather than raising livestock and slaughtering them for meat, cell-based meat is produced through 'cellular agriculture', with animal cells being cultivated into meat.
- ✓ This new method of producing meat shows strong promise of revolutionising the food system in terms of tackling pressing global issues such as food security, environmental sustainability and animal welfare. the headquarters of CCMB is located at Hyderabad, Telangana.

## Winmeen Current Affairs

1. Which of the following heritage sites is the motif of greenish-yellow Rs 20 denomination banknotes?

[A] Ellora Caves

[B] Borra Caves

[C] Barabar Caves

[D] Elephanta Caves

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently announced that it will shortly issue Rs 20 denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series. The new denomination has motif of Ellora Caves on the reverse that depicts the country's cultural heritage.
- ✓ It also contains a portrait of Mahatma Gandhi at the centre, with micro letters 'RBI', 'Bharat', 'India' and '20', along with a guarantee clause, Governor's signature with Promise Clause and RBI emblem towards the right of Gandhi's portrait.
- ✓ On the right side of the portrait are — an Ashoka Pillar emblem and electrotpe (20) watermarks. The base colour of the note is Greenish Yellow. It will bear the signature of RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.
- ✓ The dimension of the new Rs 20 note will be 63 mm x 129 mm. All the banknotes in the denomination of Rs 20 issued by the RBI in the earlier series will continue to be legal tender.

2. Which Indian defense organization has signed pact with NHPC for construction of tunnels on China & Pakistan borders?

[A] BSF

[B] Indian Army

[C] Indian Coast Guard

[D] ITBP

- ✓ Indian Army signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) to construct four underground tunnels for storage of ammunition along the China and Pakistan border.
- ✓ This is a pilot project and the tunnels are expected to be completed within two years. The cost of the pilot project is around Rs 15 crore. At Under the pilot project, three tunnels will be built on China border

while one will be built along the Line of Control with Pakistan.

- ✓ The project is meant to bolster the Indian Army's capabilities along the Chinese border where India's infrastructural development is far outpaced by that of China.
- ✓ Besides strengthening the defensive capabilities, the tunnels will protect the ammunition and other stored equipment from the air-strikes and detection by the enemy satellite. present, ammunition dumps are mostly over-ground and could be targeted by the enemies and their spies.

3. Who is the head of the CPWD committee to formulate design policy for building construction?

[A] M K Sharma

[B] S C Khuntia

[C] Mayur Srivastava

[D] Manoj Kapoor

- ✓ The Central Works Public Department (CPWD) has constituted an expert committee to formulate a design policy for building construction and infrastructure development.
- ✓ The committee, under the chairmanship of CPWD's Additional Director General M K Sharma, is aimed at reviving building construction and infrastructure development at all levels in the CPWD which comes under the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry.
- ✓ The committee has been asked to submit its report to Director General Prabhakar Singh within 30 days. The CPWD is the largest construction agency of the central government.
- ✓ It constructs most of the government's buildings across the country, erects fences on the country's international borders, among others. The agency also carries out projects in foreign countries under friendship programmes with India.

4. Rama Sengupta Paul, who passed away recently, was the veteran personality in which field?

[A] Arts

[B] Journalism

[C] Mountaineering

[D] Poetry



- ✓ Rama Sengupta Paul (66), the Veteran lady mountaineer, has passed away in Kolkata, West Bengal. She led the first successful all-women expedition to Kedarnath Dome in Garhwal Himalaya which was organized by city-based Himalayan Association to commemorate the International Year of Women in 1975.

5. Puranik Yogendra, who has become the first ethnic Indian to contest and win an election in Japan, is from which of the following Indian cities?

- [A] Patna
- [B] Udaipur
- [C] Pune
- [D] New Delhi

- ✓ Puranik Yogendra (or Yogi) from Pune has become the first ethnic Indian to contest and win an election in Japan. He has been elected to Edogawa Ward assembly of Tokyo. Hence, this is the first-ever victory of a naturalized Japanese of Indian origin in elections in Japan.
- ✓ Yogi went to Japan to pursue higher studies in 1997 and worked with various IT companies there. He lived there for 20 years and has been the resident of Edogawa for 15 years.
- ✓ Puranik believes that his ties with his adopted home were strengthened after Japan went through earthquake and tsunami in 2011 and he came to know more about the country when would visit the affected area on weekends to help the people affected due to two calamities.
- ✓ Soon after, he obtained Japanese citizenship and came to enter politics; he was fielded by the Constitutional Democratic Party (CDP) of Japan in the recent polls.

6. Who is the head of the IRDA committee to review microinsurance framework?

- [A] C K Khanna
- [B] Manoj Muntashir
- [C] Suresh Mathur
- [D] Shekhar Gupta

- ✓ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has recently constituted a 13-member Committee to review the regulatory

framework on microinsurance and recommend measures to increase the demand for such products.

- ✓ The committee, under the chairmanship of IRDAI Executive Director Suresh Mathur, has been tasked with suggesting product designs with customer-friendly underwriting, including easy premium payment methods and simple claims settlement procedures.
- ✓ The committee has representatives from life, general and health insurance companies in the public and private sectors.

7. Which country has recently pledged £4 million to support Modern Slavery Innovation Fund (MSIF)?

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

- ✓ The Modern Slavery Innovation Fund (MSIF) supports international projects to trial innovative ways of stopping modern slavery, It is in news recently because Britain has pledged £4 million to support global anti-slavery projects.
- ✓ Six organizations - Anti-Slavery International and the United Nations University, Stronger Together, The Freedom Fund , Retrak and Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) - will share the aid money from MSIF.
- ✓ The funding will also be used to run workshops on modern slavery in South Africa, improve support for survivors in India, and develop an online data hub to boost anti-slavery policies.
- ✓ The MSIF was announced in 2016 and previously gave £6 million to schemes such as awareness-raising campaigns in Nigeria, the Philippines and Vietnam. The Freedom Fund will work in India and Nepal to enhance victim care of frontline workers.

8. Which International organisation has announced that Qatar will officially abolish its controversial exit visa system for all foreign workers by the end of 2019?

- [A] ILO
- [B] UNIDO
- [C] UNESCO
- [D] WHO

- ✓ The International Labour Organization (ILO) has recently announced that Qatar will officially abolish its controversial exit visa system for all foreign workers by the end of 2019.
- ✓ It must be noted that Qatar has introduced a series of labour reforms since its selection as the 2022 World Cup host, with the event setting in motion a huge construction programme employing foreign workers. In September 2018, Qatar approved legislation to scrap the "kafala", or sponsorship, system which required that foreign workers obtain permission from their employers to leave the country.
- ✓ In February 2019, Qatar said it was committed to labour reform following an Amnesty International report that the 2022 World Cup host was failing to stop widespread labour abuse.
- ✓ As part of its pledge to reform the labour section, Qatar has also introduced a monthly minimum wage of 750 riyals (\$206) and agreed to work closely with the ILO, which now has an office in the capital.

**9. MERA India has been launched to eliminate malaria from India by which year?**

- [A] 2025
- [B] 2030
- [C] 2022
- [D] 2028

- ✓ The Indian Council of Medical Research has launched the 'Malaria Elimination Research Alliance (MERA) India' to eliminate malaria from India by 2030. The initiative is a conglomeration of partners working on malaria control.
- ✓ The principal activity of the alliance is to prioritise, plan, conduct, scale up and translate relevant research in a coordinated and combinatorial way in order to have a tangible impact of this research on the population at risk for malaria.
- ✓ The MERA India does not intend to duplicate international efforts rather complement this on a national scale while contributing to the broader global agenda. The alliance will facilitate trans-institutional coordination and collaboration around a shared research agenda which responds not only to programmatic challenges and addresses gaps in

available tools but also pro actively contributes to targeted research. It aims to harness and reinforce research in coordinated and combinatorial ways in order to achieve tangible impact on malaria elimination.

**10. Who of the following has/ have secured 2020 Tokyo Olympic quota?**

- [A] Divyansh Singh Panwar
- [B] Apurvi Chandela
- [C] Abhishek Verma
- [D] All of the above

- ✓ In shooting, Abhishek Verma secured India's fifth Olympic quota place by winning the 10m air pistol gold medal at the ISSF World Cup at Beijing, China on April 27, 2019. He clinched the top spot with a total score of 242.7.
- ✓ This is India's fifth 2020 Tokyo Olympic quota after Anjum Moudgil and Apurvi Chandela (10m air rifle women), Saurabh Choudhary (10m Air Pistol men) and Divyansh Singh Panwar had secured berths.