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WINMEEN'S

Fourth Week Current Affairs

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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 Nikhil 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 Kuttanad 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 Prahldka. 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 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 (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 HeH^+ .
- ✓ Despite its importance in the history of the early Universe, 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 131ft 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] 20th

[B] 19th

[C] 18th

[D] 17th

- ✓ 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 electrotype (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 proactively 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 Chaudhary (10m Air Pistol men) and Divyansh Singh Panwar had secured berths.