

MAY.....
.....**2019**

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SECOND WEEK

CURRENT AFFAIRS

08 MAY - 14 MAY



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WINMEEN CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. The TePe Sigeman & Co International tournament is associated to which of the following sports?

- A] Judo
- B] Tennis
- C] Swimming
- D] Chess**

- ✓ In chess, the TePe Sigeman & Co International tournament has started in Malmo, Sweden on May 3. According to the World Chess Federation (FIDE), the tournament will have 8 players with an average rating of 2663, making it a Category 17 tournament.
- ✓ The field is led by the India No. 2 Grand Master Pentala Harikrishna. Harikrishna will open his campaign against Persson while Nihal Sarin is set to meet Saric in the opener.
- ✓ In it, 14-year old Indian Grandmaster Nihal is training his sight to become the youngest Indian to break the 2600 rating barrier from this event. Nihal goes into the tournament with a live rating of 2598. He hopes to break the Indian record set by Parimarjan Negi almost a decade back in 2009.

2. Which Indian squash player has won the women's title at the 2019 Asian Individual Squash Championship?

- A] Anwasha Reddy
- B] Dipika Pallikal Karthik
- C] Joshna Chinappa**
- D] Misha Grewal

- ✓ Ace Indian squash players Saurav Ghoshal and Joshna Chinappa won their respective Asian Individual Squash Championship titles in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on May 6.
- ✓ Saurav Ghoshal defeated Leo Au Chun Ming of Hong Kong 11-9, 11-2, 11-8 to win the men's title. On the other hand, Joshna Chinappa retained her title as she beat

top seed Annie Au of Hong Kong, 11-5, 6-11, 11-8, 11-6 in the women's final event.

- ✓ Ghoshal who had become the first Indian male player to reach top ten of the world rankings is the finalist of the previous edition.

3. Duti Krushna Panda, who passed away recently, was the veteran politician of which party?

- A] CPI**
- B] INC
- C] BJP
- D] BSP

- ✓ Duti Krushna Panda (97), the veteran CPI leader and former Lok Sabha member, has passed away in Bhubaneswar, Odisha on May 5, 2019. Panda was elected to Lok Sabha from Bhanjanagara Parliamentary Constituency (presently Aska) in 1971.
- ✓ He was also elected to the state assembly from Aska seat in 1990. He was actively associated with several trade unions and was the founder president of Odisha Anganwardi Workers' Association.
- ✓ Panda was state secretary and president of CPI and AITUC, respectively. He was also the president of Ganjam district sugar growers' association.

4. What is the theme of the Indian Pavilion at the 58th Venice Biennale 2019?

- A] Swami Vivekananda & his preaching
- B] Hundred and Fifty years of Mahatma Gandhi**
- C] Tribute to Madam Bhikaji Cama
- D] India since Independence

- ✓ After 8 years, India will once again mark its presence at the art world's oldest Biennale in Venice, Italy that begins on 11th May 2019. The overarching theme at the

58th Venice Biennale 2019 is 'Our Time for a Future Caring', and India has decided to showcase Father of Nation Mahatma Gandhi to ensure a memorable show at the art event.

- ✓ In it, 16 of the 400 Haripura posters will go up on the walls of the India pavilion with the theme 'Hundred and Fifty years of Mahatma Gandhi'. This will be the second time India will have a pavilion of its own at one of the biggest art events in the world.
- ✓ The India pavilion is curated by the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA), and commissioned by the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA). The India Pavilion will revisit through diverse art forms, the indelible memory of Mahatma Gandhi his philosophical ideas.
- ✓ In 1938, Mahatma Gandhi commissioned Indian modern artist Nandalal Bose to create paintings portraying different aspects of Indian life to be displayed at the Indian National Congress' session in Haripura, Gujarat.

5. Which IIT has tied up with e-Governance Services India Limited to upscale Unnat Bharat Abhiyan?

- A] IIT Delhi
- B] IIT Indore
- C] IIT Kanpur**
- D] IIT Bombay

- ✓ Common Service Centre's (CSC) e-Governance Services India Limited has tied up with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Kanpur to upscale 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan', which is an initiative of the Ministry of HRD.
- ✓ It aims to find solutions to accelerate sustainable growth in rural India. Under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, IIT-Kanpur has brought together 15 leading higher education institutions from Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ These institutions have agreed to work with CSC for the development of villages under the scheme. IIT

Kanpur has adopted five villages -- Hridayapur, Baikanthpur, Ishwariganj, Pratappur Hari and Saxupurva -- situated on the outskirts of Kanpur for its overall development.

- ✓ The e-Governance Services India is a special purpose vehicle under the Ministry of Electronics & IT.

6. Which space agency has revealed that giant asteroid 99942 Apophis is expected to fly close to Earth in a decade?

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

- ✓ According to the latest data from US space agency NASA, the giant asteroid named 99942 Apophis is expected to approach dangerously close to the Earth on April 13, 2029.
- ✓ However, there is no need to worry as it will be about 31,000km away from the surface of the Earth. This is going to be a great opportunity for asteroid scientists as it's relatively rare for such a large object to pass so close to the Earth.
- ✓ The colossal asteroid is named after the Egyptian god of chaos and destruction. Apophis was discovered in 2004 by U.S. astronomers. Since then, optical and radar telescopes have tracked Apophis as it continues on its orbit around the sun, so scientists know well its future trajectory. Current calculations shows that Apophis still has a small chance of impacting earth.

7. Which Indian journalist has won the 2018 ACJ Award for Investigative Journalism in print/online category?

- A] Nilita Vachani
- B] Nikita Saxena
- C] Neha Dixit
- D] Nileena MS**

- ✓ Journalist Nileena MS, a reporting fellow with The Caravan, has won the prestigious ACJ Award for Investigative Journalism in print/online category for the year 2018.
- ✓ She won the award for her story titled "Coalgate 2.0: The Adani Group reaps benefits worth thousands of crores of rupees as the coal scam continues under the Modi government".
- ✓ Her investigative piece revealed how a joint venture between Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited & Adani Enterprises Limited continues to function on the basis of agreements that pre-date a landmark SC judgement from Sep.2014.
- ✓ The ACJ award comprises a trophy, citation and a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh. The award is given by the Asian College of Journalism with the support of the Media Development Foundation to recognise and encourage the best works of investigative journalism produced for Indian readers, viewers and audiences in order to promote journalism in the public interest.

8. INS Vela, which is launched under Indian Navy's Project-75, is the joint venture of India and which of the following countries?

A] United States

B] France

C] Germany

D] Russia

- ✓ The fourth of Indian Navy's stealth Scorpene class Submarines of Project 75, INS Vela has recently launched for trials at the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) in Mumbai.
- ✓ The submarines are being built at Mazagon Dock Limited, with the main collaborator being M/s naval group, France. The Scorpene-class submarine in the Indian Navy has been termed as the Kalvari-class.
- ✓ In 2005, a contract was signed between French DCNS (now Naval Group) and MDL under Indian Navy's

Project-75 for the supply of six submarines. Of the six submarines, INS Kalvari was commissioned in December 2018 while INS Khanderi and INS Karanj are in advanced stages to join the Navy fleet.

- ✓ The remaining two — INS Vagir and INS Vagsheer are in the in the "advanced stages of manufacturing" at the Mazagon Dock. The contract is expected to be completed by 2020.

9. Bandana, who set a new Guinness World Record on 'Longest Dancing Marathon by an Individual', is from which country?

A] India

B] Nepal

C] Sri Lanka

D] Pakistan

- ✓ A Nepali teenager, Bandana Nepal (18) has set a new Guinness World Record on 'Longest Dancing Marathon by an Individual' by dancing continuously for 126 hours. She received the official confirmation from the Guinness Records on 3rd May 2019.
- ✓ Bandana set the record by doing a solo dance on Nepali music for 126 hours in the hall of Big Foodland restaurant in Kathmandu on November 23, 2018.
- ✓ Hails from Dhankuta district in eastern Nepal, she also owns a youth organisation named Bandana Nepal Foundation. The organization works for uplift of poor women in Nepal.
- ✓ Bandana beat the record set by a Kerala-based woman named Kalamandalam Hemalatha in 2011. Known as 'The Dancing Queen of Kerala', Hemalatha performed the Mohiniattam, a classical dance form continuously for 123 hours and 15 minutes.

10. Which country is the current chair of the 2019 G-7 summit?

A] France

B] India

C] Chile

D] Australia

- ✓ India is officially invited to Group of 7 (G-7) industrialized nations summit along with Australia, Chile and South Africa. The summit is scheduled to be held in Biarritz, France in August 24-25, 2019.
 - ✓ According to analysts, the invitation clearly reflects the strong strategic connect between India and France. And also, the invitation to Australia, France and South Africa besides India reflects the French emphasis on the Indian Ocean and the Pacific region.
 - ✓ The G-7 groups together the US, Britain, France, Italy, Canada, Japan and Germany. This is not first time that India will be present at this exclusive club.
 - ✓ In 2005, the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had attended the G-8 +5 meet in Gleneagles in Scotland at the invitation of then British Prime Minister Tony Blair.
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WINMEEN CURRENT AFFAIRS**1. What is the theme of the 2019 World Asthma Day?**

- A] Better air better breathing
- B] You Can Control Your Asthma
- C] Understanding asthma

D] Stop for Asthma

- ✓ The World Asthma Day (WAD) is celebrated every year on first Tuesday of May to increase awareness about asthma and aims to improve the lives of people with asthma across the world. Asthma is a chronic disease of the lungs which causes breathing problems.
- ✓ Asthma usually appears through symptoms like coughing, tightness in the chest, breathlessness. The 2019 WAD is observed on 7th of May with theme 'Stop for Asthma'.
- ✓ According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), there are 235 million people currently suffering from asthma around the world. Asthma is one of the major non-communicable diseases and it is also the most common chronic disease in children. Regular exercise can help reduce asthma symptoms.

2. Who is the newly appointed Prime Minister of Mali?

- A] Michel Sidibe
- B] Malick Coulibaly
- C] Boubou Cisse**
- D] Tiebile Drame

- ✓ In Mali, President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita has recently announced the new government of 37 members under Prime Minister Boubou Cisse after its predecessor resigned last month.
- ✓ Last week, Cisse signed a pact with opposition and majority party representatives declaring their willingness to set up a politically-inclusive new government.

- ✓ Cisse's predecessor Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga and his entire cabinet resigned on April 18 following the massacre of some 160 members of the Fulani herding community on March 23 in the village of Ogossagou near Mali's border with Burkina Faso.

3. Who of the following Indians are among 115 UN personnel staff honoured for sacrifice in line of duty?

- A] Sunny Rajput & Sukhpreet Kaur
- B] Prithvi Shaw & Manju Sharma
- C] Jitender Kumar & Shikha Garg**
- D] Narendra Singh Rathore & Neha Gupta

- ✓ Two Indians - an Indian police officer Jitender Kumar deployed to the UN mission in Congo and a consultant Shikha Garg with the UN development programme, killed in the Ethiopian Airlines plane crash, are among 115 UN peacekeepers and staff honoured by the global organisation for their sacrifice.
- ✓ They lost their lives in the service of peace between January 2018 and March 2019. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, along with top UN officials and Peacekeeping personnel paid tribute to 115 peacekeepers from 43 different nations, who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty at the solemn ceremony on May 5, 2019.

4. 'GRIHA for Existing Day Schools', which is in news recently, is associated to which of the following issues?

- A] Mid Day Meal
- B] Quality Education
- C] Environment**
- D] All of the above

- ✓ In a bid to evaluate the environmental performance of existing schools across India, the Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) Council has

recently released a rating tool 'GRIHA for Existing Day Schools'.

- ✓ The rating tool will work as an integrated tool to evaluate performance and provide solutions for enhanced energy and water efficiencies and decreased operational and maintenance costs.
- ✓ The purpose of the rating is to familiarize the students with the concepts of sustainability by involving them, under the guidance of their teachers, on evaluating the environmental impact of schools on the environment.
- ✓ Through the rating process, students and teachers will get an opportunity to establish contact with nature and with each other using the approach of co-creation and understanding.

5. INS Ranjit, which is recently decommissioned by Indian Navy, was built by which of the countries?

A) USSR

B) United States

C) France

D) Germany

- ✓ Frontline missile destroyer of the Indian Navy 'INS Ranjit' has recently decommissioned at a solemn ceremony at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam, after serving the Indian navy for 36 years.
- ✓ INS Ranjit is the third of the five Kashin-class destroyers built by the erstwhile USSR and was commissioned on September 15 1983 by Captain Vishnu Bhagwat.
- ✓ Since being commissioned, INS Ranjit has sailed for 2,190 days, covering over 7, 43, 000 nautical miles, equivalent to navigating around the world 35 times and 3.5 times the distance from the earth to the moon.
- ✓ The ship was at the forefront of major naval operations and served on both the Eastern and Western seaboard. Apart from naval operations like 'Op Talwar' and various multinational exercises, the

ship participated in relief operations post Tsunami in 2004 and Hud-hud on 2014.

- ✓ In recognition of the service rendered by INS Ranjit to the nation, the ship was awarded Unit Citations by the Chief of Naval Staff in 2003-04 and in 2009-10.

6. Who has been elected as the new President of Panama?

A) Dahirou Dembele

B) Laurentino Cortizo

C) Ricardo Arias

D) Jose Miguel Aleman

- ✓ Laurentino Cortizo has been declared the winner of 2019 presidential election of Panama. The 2019 elections have been dominated by pledges to fight corruption and to tackle Panama's image as a money-laundering country.
- ✓ Cortizo is the candidate for Panama's Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD). His party was founded by military ruler Omar Torrijos in 1979, and has been out of power since 2009.

7. Who has been sworn-in as the new Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court?

A) Subhash Reddy

B) A. S Dave

C) PR Ramachandra Menon

D) Hemant Gupta

- ✓ Justice PR Ramachandra Menon has been sworn-in as the new Chief Justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court. Governor Anandiben Patel administered him the oath of office and secrecy at a function at Raj Bhawan.
- ✓ Earlier, Menon was a judge in the Kerala High Court. As per article 217 of constitution, the Chief Justice of a High Court is appointed by the President with the consultation of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Governor of the State.

- ✓ The other judges are appointed by the will of President, Governor and the Chief Justice of High Court.

8. Who has been appointed as new coach of Indian Volleyball Team?

A] Pryemyslaw Gaszyoski

B] Dragan Mihailovic

C] Valadimir Radosevic

D] Michel Sidibe

- ✓ The Volleyball Federation of India (VFI) has recently appointed Dragan Mihailovic (from Serbia) as head coach of the men's national team in a move linked to the long term goal of Olympic Games qualification.
- ✓ The VFI also announced the appointment of Pryemyslaw Gaszyoski and Valadimir Radosevic as the team's physio trainer and physiotherapist respectively.
- ✓ Besides the men's national team, the trio will also look after the men's U-23 team and other junior teams representing India. All the three have been appointed for 5 months and will work with the team for the Asian Championships scheduled to be held in Iran during September.

9. Who has been bestowed with the 2019 V K Krishna Menon Award?

A] K Sivan

B] G D Robert Govender

C] Mahendra Chaudhry

D] K G Balakrishnan

- ✓ G D 'Robert' Govender, an Indian-origin journalist in South Africa, has been honoured in the UK with 2019 V K Krishna Menon award for his outstanding contribution as a pioneer of decolonized journalism.
- ✓ During a career spanning nearly 60 years, Govender developed a reputation as a campaigning journalist

and author and was also the first journalist to call for an international boycott of South Africa's whites-only sports teams.

- ✓ He was awarded posthumously during an event by the UK-based V K Krishna Menon Foundation to mark the 123rd birth anniversary of Indian diplomat and politician V K Krishna Menon.
- ✓ The objectives of the foundation are to eradicate illiteracy and propagate knowledge among the masses of the world, promote oriental art and culture, eliminate poverty, encourage proliferation and promote Non-Aligned Movement in the world.
- ✓ V K Krishna Menon was a freedom fighter and independent India's first high commissioner to the UK. Later on he also became defence minister of the country during Nehru's prime ministership.

10. The book 'Game Changer' is the autobiography of which of the following cricketers?

A] Waqar Younis

B] Javed Miandad

C] Shahid Afridi

D] Imran Khan

- ✓ Pakistan's former captain and star all-rounder Shahid Afridi has recently released his controversial autobiography, titled 'Game Changer'. Be it his views on Kashmir, 2010 spot fixing scandal or his age revelation, Afridi has been creating headlines ever since his autobiography was released.
- ✓ It is co-authored by Afridi and journalist Wajahat S Khan and is published by HarperCollins India. The book details some interesting and exciting information from the cricketer's life. He has criticised many former players, including Javed Miandad, Waqar Younis and Gautam Gambhir in the book. Afridi is popularly known as 'Boom Boom' and holds the world record for the fastest ODI century in 37 deliveries.

WINMEEN CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. Which Indian personality has been elected as the member of the International Narcotics Control Board?

A] Upendra Kushwah

B] Dalveer Bhandari

C] Jagjit Pavadia

D] Nagendra Singh

✓ In a significant victory, India's Jagjit Pavadia has been re-elected to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for a 5-year term beginning 2nd March, 2020. She posted the highest number of votes at 44. Ms Pavadia has been a member of the INCB since 2015 and her current term is set to expire in 2020.

✓ The victory added to India's successful record of winning crucial elections at the UN and to the world organisation's subsidiary bodies. Established in 1968, the INCB is an independent and quasi-judicial monitoring body for the implementation of the UN's international drug control conventions.

✓ INCB consists of 13 members who are elected by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and who serve in their personal capacity.

2. What is the theme of the 2019 edition of World Red Cross Day?

A] #peace

B] #love

C] #humanity

D] #unity

✓ The World Red Cross Day (WRCD) is observed every year on May 8 to recognize the extraordinary contribution and incredible achievements of the stalwarts and volunteers around the world for helping the people in need anytime, anywhere. It is a gentle nod to all the volunteers who have made unparalleled contribution to people in need.

✓ The day is also known as World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day. This date is the anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant, who was born on 8 May 1828. He was the founder of International Committee of the Red Cross and the recipient of the first Nobel Peace Prize.

✓ The 2019 theme is "#love" or simply "love", which will focus on broadening people's understanding of the society by highlighting diversity and universality of work and approach of Red Cross.

✓ On this special day, several blood donation camps will be organised around the world and this day also offers an opportunity to provide voluntary medical services to society.

3. Which of the following countries are members of inter-governmental forum Arctic Council?

A] Canada, Denmark & India

B] Russia, Sweden & United States

C] Russia, India & China

D] France, Iceland & Germany

✓ On 7th May 2019, India has been re-elected as an observer to inter-governmental forum Arctic Council at the 11th Arctic Council ministerial meeting at Rovaniemi, Finland. Indian researchers have been studying whether there is a co-relation between Indian monsoon and the Arctic region.

✓ The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, an Indian institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, has set up a research station, 'Himadri', in Svalbard in Norway that works on the mass balance of glaciers, the effect of the warming on the marine system, the formation of clouds and precipitation, and the effect on biodiversity.

✓ The Arctic Council promotes cooperation, coordination and interaction among Arctic states on common

issues, particularly on sustainable development and environmental protection.

- ✓ It addresses issues faced by the Arctic governments and the indigenous people of the Arctic. It consists of 8 members' countries: Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the US.

4. The Desert Storm 2019 has started from which city of Rajasthan?

A] Bikaner

B] Jaipur

C] Udaipur

D] Barmer

- ✓ The Desert Storm 2019 is touted to be the longest Cross-Country Rally in India, which is started from Bikaner in Rajasthan on 8th May.
- ✓ The 4-day-long Rally will see over 100 teams competing in high temperatures, treacherous dune crossings and fast technical gravel straights which will pose an exciting challenge to the competitors.

5. India's first natural Ice Café is located in which of the following states?

A] Himchal Pradesh

B] J&K

C] Sikkim

D] Arunachal Pradesh

- ✓ India's first natural Ice Cafe has started at a height of 14,000 feet in Leh, Ladakh. The ice cafe is located on the Manali-Leh Highway. It is created by natural process by the Border Road Organisation (BRO) officials, with the help of some locals during winters.
- ✓ It is built in the shape of a mound with the purpose of saving water in winter and using it later for irrigation purposes when the ice melts in spring.

- ✓ The cafe utilises the same concept as used by Sonam Wangchuk for his ice stupa project in Ladakh and has been attracting a large number of tourists.

6. Which country's privately developed rocket 'Momo-3' reached outer space?

A] South Korea

B] France

C] Japan

D] China

- ✓ A Japanese aerospace startup Interstellar Technology Inc. has become the first private firm in Japan to launch a rocket into space. It has successfully launched a small rocket 'Momo-3' from its test site in Hokkaido, which reached about 110 kilometers (68 miles) in altitude before falling into the Pacific Ocean after 10 minutes of flight time.
- ✓ With this feat, Momo-3 has become the Japan's first privately developed model to reach outer space. The rocket is about 10 m (32 feet) long & 50 cms (1.5 feet) in diameter, and weighs about 1 ton. The rocket is capable of putting payloads into orbit.
- ✓ The Interstellar Technology, founded in 2013 by former Livedoor Co. President Takafumi Horie, aims to develop low-cost commercial rockets to carry satellites into space.

7. Dr. NR Madhava Menon, the father of modern Indian Legal Education has passed away. He was from which state?

A] Karnataka

B] Andhra Pradesh

C] Tamil Nadu

D] Kerala

- ✓ Dr. NR Madhava Menon (84), the renowned academician and father of modern Indian Legal

Education, passed away in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on May 8. He is credited for revolutionizing the field of legal education by establishing National Law Schools and by conceptualizing the 5-year integrated LLB programme.

- ✓ He was the founder Director of the National Law School of India University (NLSIU) Bangalore and the National Judicial Academy (NJA) Bhopal and the founder Vice Chancellor of the West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (NUJS).
- ✓ The nation honoured him with the Padma Sri in 2003 for his outstanding contributions to the legal field.

8. What is the theme of the 2019 edition of World Thalassaemia Day?

- A] Access to Safe & Effective Drugs in Thalassaemia
- B] Economic Recession: Observe – Joint Forces – Safeguard Health
- C] Enhancing partnership towards patient-centred health systems
- D] Universal access to quality thalassaemia healthcare services**

- ✓ The World Thalasseamia Day is observed every year on May 8 to raise awareness about this ailment among people all over the world. The 2019 theme is “Universal access to quality thalassaemia healthcare services: Building bridges with and for patients”.
- ✓ Thalaseemia is a chronic blood disorder. It is a genetic disorder due to which a patient cannot make enough hemoglobin found in Red Blood Cells. This leads to anemia and patients also require blood transfusions every two to three weeks to survive. Thalassemias are inherited disorders passed from parents to children through genes.

9. The researchers at which institute has found a novel function for stress buster serotonin to treat neurological decline?

- A] AIIMS, Delhi
- B] Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai**
- C] National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bangalore
- D] All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysore

- ✓ The researchers at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) Mumbai have found a novel function for serotonin (a chemical that signals between neurons).
- ✓ The recent discovery establishes that serotonin is involved in the generation of new mitochondria (the powerhouse of the cell) in neurons, increased cellular respiration and fuel (ATP) in the cell.
- ✓ The chemical can impact the manner in which neurons grapple with stress and affect the trajectory of ageing. Neuronal loss is a major cause of neurodegenerative diseases such as in Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s.
- ✓ Abnormal mitochondrial functions are known to cause or contribute to neuronal death. Hence, the new findings from TIFR raise the possibility that serotonin signalling could be used to prevent mitochondrial abnormalities and neuronal loss.
- ✓ Serotonin’s newly indentified function has been studied in mice and rats. The results of the study were published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS). The chemical name of serotonin is 5-hydroxytryptamine (5-HT).

10. Pakkamalai Reserve Forests is located in which state?

A] Tamil Nadu

B] Kerala

C] Karnataka

D] Andhra Pradesh

- ✓ For the first time, researchers have recently sighted nests of the grizzled giant squirrel (*Ratufa macroura*) at Pakkamalai Reserve Forests near Gingee (Tamil Nadu) in the Eastern Ghats.
 - ✓ It is an endangered species listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972. The grizzled giant squirrel is usually known to nest in the Western Ghats in Southern India ranging from Chinnar Wildlife sanctuary in Kerala to Anamalai Tiger Reserve and Palani hills in Tamil Nadu.
 - ✓ Owing to habitat loss and poaching, the species has been categorized as near threatened by the Red List and listed under Schedule II of CITES.
 - ✓ The grizzled giant squirrel has a body length of 25-45 cms, with an equally long or slightly longer tail. It can weigh anything between 1.5-3 kg.
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WINMEEN CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. Which of the following golfers has been honoured with 2019 US Presidential Medal of Freedom?

- A) Rickie Fowler
- B) Phil Mickelson
- C) Tiger Woods**
- D) Justin Rose

- ✓ On May 6, US President Donald Trump bestowed Tiger Woods with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington. He won his first major in nearly 11 years at last month's Masters Tournament, a comeback that captivated the sporting world.
- ✓ Woods is only the fourth and the youngest golfer ever to have received the highest American civilian award. The other golfers were Arnold Palmer (74), in 2004; Jack Nicklaus (65), in 2005; and Charlie Sifford, (92), in 2014. Sifford was the first African American to play on the PGA tour.
- ✓ The Medal of Freedom is America's highest honour for civilian accomplishment. President Truman first established the medal to honour extraordinary civilian accomplishments related to World War II. President Kennedy re-established the medal by executive order in 1963.

2. The team of scientists at CSIR has recently carried out first-ever genetic studies on people of which of the following islands?

- A) Majuli
- B) Ross Island
- C) Nicobar Islands
- D) Lakshadweep**

- ✓ Lakshadweep is an archipelago of 36 islands and scattered over approximately 78,000 square km of the Arabian Sea with population of approximately 65,000.

- ✓ Recently, the team of scientists at CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) carried out first-ever genetic studies on the people of Lakshadweep Islands.
- ✓ The team was led by Dr. K Thangaraj. The scientist have studied the major islands of Agatti, Andorth, Bitra, Chetlat, Kadmat, Kalpeni, Kiltan and Minicoy of Lakshadweep and demonstrated a close genetic link of Lakshadweep islanders with people from Maldives, Sri Lanka and India.
- ✓ They analyzed DNA samples of 557 individuals from these 8 major islands for mitochondrial DNA and 166 individuals for Y chromosome markers.
- ✓ The paternal and maternal ancestries of the majority of island populations suggest their arrival from distinct sources. They found that the maternal ancestry was closer to South Indian populations, whereas the paternal ancestry is more similar to the Maldives and North India.
- ✓ In conclusion, the first genetic data suggest that the majority of human ancestry in Lakshadweep is largely derived from South Asia with minor influences from East and West Eurasia.

3. What is the theme of the 2019 edition of UN Global Road Safety Week?

- A) Road Security a Goal, Not an Intermission
- B) Leadership for road safety**
- C) Young road users, including young drivers
- D) Walk for Road Security

- ✓ The 5th edition of United Nations (UN) Global Road Safety Week has started from 6th May with theme "leadership for road safety". The World Health Organization (WHO) promotes road safety as a means to reduce traffic-related injuries.

- ✓ Hence, UN Global Road Safety Weeks and its' campaigns are chaired by WHO and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). It launched action through the ongoing campaign: Save Lives - #SpeakUp.

4. Which Indian filmmaker will direct a film on the life of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman?

- A] Shyam Benegal
- B] Sanjay Leela Bhansali
- C] Mani Ratnam
- D] Vishal Bhardwaj

- ✓ India and Bangladesh will jointly produce a film on the life & works of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and also a documentary on Bangladesh Liberation War. He was the founding father of Bangladesh.
- ✓ The movie will be directed by the acclaimed Indian filmmaker Shyam Benegal and will be written by Atul Tiwari. The decision was taken after a Bangladeshi delegation led by Dr. Gowher Rizvi met Information and Broadcasting Secretary Amit Khare.
- ✓ It was mutually agreed that the director of the documentary would be from Bangladesh who would be assisted by a co-director from India.
- ✓ Prasar Bharati has decided to carry Bangladesh TV on DD Free Dish platform without charging carriage fees. As a reciprocal gesture, Bangladesh Delegation announced that a Doordarshan channel will be adopted on the soon-to-be launched DTH platform of Bangladesh.

5. Mrinal Mukherjee, who passed away recently, was the renowned actor of which regional cinema?

- A] Odia
- B] Bengali
- C] Urdu

D] Kannada

- ✓ Mrinal Mukherjee (74), the veteran film and TV actor, has passed away in Kolkata, West Bengal on May 8, 2019. Apart from being a versatile actor, Mrinal Mukherjee was a great singer as well.

6. Baidyanath Mishra, who passed away recently, was the renowned personality of which field?

- A] Economy
- B] History
- C] Geography
- D] Polity

- ✓ Baidyanath Mishra (99), the renowned economist, has passed away in Bhubaneswar, Odisha on May 8, 2019. Mishra had started his career as a lecturer in Ravenshaw University in Cuttack in 1949.
- ✓ He later worked at Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT). He was vice-chancellor of OUAT from 1981 to 1985. Mishra was also the chairman of State Planning Board from 1985 to 1990.

7. Where is the headquarters of IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services)?

- A] Berlin
- B] Paris
- C] New York

D] Bonn

- ✓ The UN report titled "IPBES Global Assessment" has been released by IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services). It is compiled by 145 expert authors from 50 countries.
- ✓ The IPBES report found that around 1 million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction. The threatened list includes more than 40% of

amphibian species, almost 33% of reef-forming corals, and more than a third of all marine mammals.

- ✓ The report tells us that it is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global. The headquarters of IBPES is located in Bonn, Germany.

8. Which Indian city is hosting the World Customs Organisation (WCO) regional custom heads meeting?

- A] Shimla
- B] Pune
- C] Kochi**
- D] New Delhi

- ✓ The meeting of the Regional Heads of Customs Administration of Asia Pacific Region of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) is being organized by Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) in Kochi from 08th to 10th May, 2019. India is hosting this meeting in its capacity as Vice Chair of the Asia Pacific region that it assumed on 1st July, 2018 for a 2 year period.
- ✓ The meeting will facilitate and secure the cross-border trade in the region and the capacity building and technical assistance required to achieve this goal. This meeting is being chaired by Mr. Pranab Kumar Das, CBIC Chairman.

9. Which union ministry has recently decided to discard its 'Black List' of Indian-origin people?

- A] Ministry of External Affairs
- B] Ministry of Home Affairs**
- C] Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- D] Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

- ✓ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has decided to discard its 'Black List' of Indian-origin people, who have taken asylum abroad under the plea of alleged persecution in India.

- ✓ As per officials, all such people will also be given regular visa as well as Overseas Citizen of India (OCI). The list, which is maintained by Indian missions, is mostly consists of the names of people belonging to the Sikh Community.
- ✓ Such Indian-origin people can also get OCI cards if they have held normal Indian visas for at least two years.

10. The 2019 Brahmakalashothsava festival has started in which of the following states?

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

- ✓ The 6-day Brahmakalashothsava festival is celebrated in the ancient Chandkuru Sri Durga Parameshwari Temple annually in Polali, Dakshina Kannada district in Karnataka.
- ✓ The presiding deity of the temple, which has a history of nearly 1,700 years, is Shri Rajarajeshwari. The highlight of this temple is its mud idols and this is probably the only idol of this size (about 9ft height) in Karnataka.
- ✓ It is in news recently because several Dalits and OBCs from Chandkuru and surrounding villages in Belthangady taluk boycotted festival in a centuries-old temple due to separate seating arrangement had been made for people of the upper caste.

WINMEEN CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. Which Indian personality has been appointed as new SDG Advocate of UN?

A] Chewang Norphel

B] Sonam Wangchuk

C] Jadav Payeng

D] Dia Mirza

- ✓ The United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed 17 global figures including Indian actress Dia Mirza and Alibaba chief Jack Ma as the new advocates to drive action and solidify global political will for the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals.
- ✓ The new class of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Advocates are influential public figures committed to raising awareness, inspiring greater ambition and pushing for faster action on the SDGs, which were adopted by world leaders on September 25, 2015.
- ✓ The other newly-appointed SDG Advocates include Queen Mathilde of the Belgians, Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Founder, Education Above All Foundation (State of Qatar), British screenwriter, producer and film director Richard Curtis, Nobel Laureate Nadia Murad, Director of Center for Sustainable Development, Columbia University Jeffrey Sachs, Brazilian footballer and UN Women Goodwill Ambassador and Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative, Forest Whitaker.

2. Thopil Mohammed Meeran, who passed away recently, was the renowned novelist of which language?

A] Tamil

B] Telugu

C] Kannada

D] Odia

- ✓ Thopil Mohammed Meeran (74), the well-known Tamil novelist and Sahitya Akademi awardee, has passed

away at Pettai in Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu on May 10, 2019. Born in the coastal hamlet of Thaengaipattinam in Kanniyakumari district on 26th September 1944, Mohamed Meeran authored the novels - Oru Kadalora Graamaththin Kathai, Thuraimugam, Koonan Thoppu, Saaivu Naarkkaali and Anju Vannam Theru - between 1988 and 2011.

- ✓ Of these, Saaivu Naarkkaali (The Reclining Chair) bagged him the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award in 1997. His short story collections — Anbukku Muthumai Illai, Thangarasu, Ananthasayanam Colony, Oru Kutti Theevin Varippadam, Thoppil Mohamed Meeran Kathaigal and Oru Maamaramum Konjam Paravaigalum — and translations gave him a prominent place in the literary world.

3. Which well-known actor has written the novel "Dopehri"?

A] Sanjay Dutt

B] Pankaj Kapur

C] Naseeruddin Shah

D] R. Madhavan

- ✓ Veteran actor Pankaj Kapur will soon release his debut novel 'Dopehri', based on a play of the same name which he wrote and directed several years ago.
- ✓ "Dopehri" is the story of Amma Bi, an elderly widow who lives alone in her deserted family haveli in Lucknow. Originally written in Hindi, "Dopehri" will be published simultaneously by HarperCollins in three editions: Hindi (in Devanagari script), Hindi (in Urdu script) and in English translation.

4. Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is associated to which of the following countries?

A] Iran, United States and France

B] Russia, UK and China

C] Germany, Iran and United States

D] All of the above

- ✓ Iran has recently announced to stop respecting limits on its nuclear activities agreed under a 2015 nuclear deal with major powers until they find a way to bypass renewed US sanctions. The Iran nuclear deal was formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).
- ✓ Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has given an ultimatum of 60 days to remaining signatories - the UK, France, Germany, China and Russia - to implement their promises to protect Iran's oil and banking sectors from US sanctions. The nuclear deal was designed to curb Iran's nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief.
- ✓ Under the landmark deal, Iran is required to sell its surplus enriched uranium abroad, rather than keep it, thereby allowing it to generate nuclear power without building nuclear weapons. In it, Iran agreed to limit its sensitive nuclear activities and allow in international inspectors in return for the lifting of crippling economic sanctions.

5. Which Indian judge has been appointed as a member of the Commonwealth Secretariat Arbitral Tribunal (CSAT)?

A] T S Thakur

B] Madan Lokur

C] K S Radhakrishnan

D] Kurian Joseph

- ✓ Justice (Retd.) K S Radhakrishnan has been appointed as a member of the Commonwealth Secretariat Arbitral Tribunal in London. He will render his services as a member of the Tribunal for a period of four years from 1st of June, 2019 to 31st of May, 2023.

- ✓ Justice Radhakrishnan served as the Chief Justice of the Gujarat and Jammu & Kashmir High Courts before his term in Supreme Court from 2009-2014.

6. India's first UPI Bahi Khata for merchants has been launched by which fintech start-up company?

A] Paytm

B] BharatPe

C] PhonePe

D] MobiKwik

- ✓ BharatPe has launched India's first UPI Bahi Khata for merchants, which allows merchants to record their cash/ credit (udhar) sales customer wise. It also serves as a networking platform for merchants to connect and collaborate with other BharatPe merchants near them to source and expand their businesses.
- ✓ BharatPe is the India's first fintech start-up enabling payments for merchants through interoperable UPI QR codes.

7. India's newest pit viper has recently found in which of the following states?

A] Mizoram

B] Arunachal Pradesh

C] Odisha

D] Sikkim

- ✓ A team of herpetologists led by Ashok Captain have described a new species of reddish-brown pit viper — a venomous snake with a unique heat-sensing system — from a forest in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✓ The discovery makes the Arunachal pit viper (*Trimeresurus arunachalensis*) the second serpent to have been discovered after the non-venomous crying keelback in the State's Lepa-Rada district in 2018.

- ✓ The new species also makes Arunachal Pradesh the only Indian state to have a pit viper named after it.
- ✓ Before the Arunachal Pradesh discovery, India had four brown pit vipers — Malabar, horseshoe, hump-nosed and Himalayan — which were discovered 70 years ago. The discovery was recently published in the March-April volume of the Russian Journal of Herpetology.

8. Who has been elected as Vice-President of Geneva-based International Motorcycle Manufacturers Association (IMMA)?

A) Gautam Adani

B) Ratan Tata

C) Rakesh Sharma

D) Mukesh Ambani

- ✓ Bajaj Auto Executive Director Rakesh Sharma has been elected as Vice-President of Geneva-based International Motorcycle Manufacturers Association (IMMA) at Yogyakarta, Indonesia.
- ✓ Sharma is a representative of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM). IMMA represents the manufacturing industry of powered two wheelers at the global level.

9. Which company has launched the world's highest-resolution image sensor for smartphones?

A) Apple

B) Samsung

C) Oppo

D) Vivo

- ✓ Samsung Electronics Co has recently launched the world's highest-resolution image sensor for smartphones at 64-Megapixels to meet the growing demand for mobile devices with better image quality.

- ✓ The company expands its 0.8µm image sensor lineup with 64Mp ISOCELL Bright GW1 and 48Mp ISOCELL Bright GM2 that allow vibrant ultra-high resolution mobile photography.

10. Which of the following countries participated in the naval exercise 'Group Sail' in the disputed South China Sea?

A) Japan, Philippines and India

B) Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia

C) Brunei, Philippines and Taiwan

D) United States, Vietnam and Philippines

- ✓ Two Indian Navy ships - Guided Missile Destroyer INS Kolkata and Fleet Support Ship INS Shakti carried out a 6-day long exercise 'Group Sail' with naval ships of Japan, Philippines and the United States of America (USA) in the disputed South China Sea from 03 May to 09 May 19.
- ✓ The aim of the Group Sail is to deepen the existing partnership and foster mutual understanding among participating navies. The ships undertook various exercises.
- ✓ The Group Sail exercise with naval ships of Japan, Philippines and United States showcased India's commitment towards operating with like-minded nations to ensure safe maritime environment through enhanced interoperability.

WINMEEN CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. Which Indian company has become the official sponsor of the Afghanistan cricket team for the 2019 ICC World Cup?

A] Dabur

B] Sanchi

C] Amul

D] Hindustan Unilever

- ✓ India's Dairy major Amul will be the principal sponsor of the Afghanistan cricket team for the 2019 ICC World Cup, which will be hosted by England and Wales.
- ✓ The logo of brand AMUL, which boasts of an annual sales turnover of Rs 45,000 crores, will appear on the Afghanistan team playing jerseys as well as on the training kits throughout the World Cup from May 30 to July 14, 2019.
- ✓ This is the third time that Amul is sponsoring a cricket team in the World Cup. Earlier, the company had associated with New Zealand and Holland teams. Though Afghanistan participated in the 2015 World Cup as an associate nation, this will be the first time it will feature in a tournament as a full-member.

2. Which of the following countries has officially become the second country in the world to declare a climate emergency

A] Ireland

B] Finland

C] Norway

D] Sweden

- ✓ After United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland has officially become the 2nd country in the world to declare a climate and biodiversity emergency. It happened after the Oireachtas (Irish parliament) report on Climate Action was accepted by the government and opposition parties without a vote.

- ✓ An amendment to a parliamentary report declaring a climate emergency and calling on parliament to examine how the Irish government can improve its response to the issue of biodiversity loss was accepted.
- ✓ Britain's parliament became the first in the world to declare a climate emergency, passing the largely symbolic motion on May 1.

3. On which date, the 2019 edition of National Technology Day is celebrated in India?

A] May 13

B] May 12

C] May 11

D] May 10

- ✓ The National Technology Day is celebrated every year in India on May 11. On this day in 1998, India successfully tested its nuclear bombs in Pokhran, Rajasthan.
- ✓ The tests were conducted under the leadership of Former President Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, who was then DRDO Chief, and Dr. R Chidambaram, then Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission. A team of more than 100 scientists, technicians and soldiers were involved in the successfully conducted tests.

4. Y C Deveshwar, who passed away recently, was the noted industry leader of which company?

A] Infosys

B] ITC

C] Bajaj

D] Grasim

- ✓ Y C Deveshwar (72), the noted industry leader and ITC Chairman, has passed away in Gurugram on May 11, 2019. He was India's longest serving CEO and had

received the India's 3rd highest civilian award 'Padma Bhushan' in 2011.

- ✓ He was also a director on the central board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). ITC Limited is an Indian multinational conglomerate company headquartered in Kolkata, West Bengal.

5. Which Indian armed force has decided to observe 2019 as 'Year of Next of Kin'?

- A) Indian Navy
- B) Indian Air Force
- C) Indian Army**
- D) Indian Coast Guard

- ✓ The Indian Army has decided to commemorate 2019 as the 'Year of Next of Kin' and plans to reach out to the next of kin of battle casualties, ex-servicemen and serving soldiers to inform them of entitled financial benefits, welfare schemes and help resolve pension related problems.
- ✓ The issue gains importance in light of most next of kin of deceased soldiers being unaware of the financial benefits that are entitled to them. Incorrect and incomplete documentation is a common problem for most of the next of kin, which aggravates their plight.
- ✓ Indian Army plans to overcome these challenges through its formations and regimental centres. It will also seek the involvement of the defence ministry, Nepal Embassy (due to several soldiers being recruited from Nepal), Sainik Boards, banks and welfare agencies such as the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS).
- ✓ The Directorate of Indian Army Veterans will be the nodal agency. Earlier, the Indian Army marked 2018 as the 'Year of Disabled in the Line of Duty'.

6. Prof. Kirpal Singh, who passed away recently, was the renowned personality in which field?

- A) History**
- B) Geography
- C) Economics
- D) Science

- ✓ Prof. Kirpal Singh (95), the renowned Sikh historian and chronicler, has passed away in Chandigarh on May 7. He was the first chronicler of India's partition. Kirpal had established the Oral History Cell at Punjabi University in 1973 having over 400 statements of eminent persons in several fields.

7. The Supreme Court has recently upheld validity of which state government's law for reservation in promotion and seniority to SC and ST employees?

- A) Kerala
- B) Karnataka**
- C) Andhra Pradesh
- D) Telangana

- ✓ The Supreme Court has recently upheld the constitutional validity of the Karnataka Extension of Consequential Seniority to Government Servants Promoted on the Basis of Reservation (to the Posts in the Civil Services of the State) Act, 2018.
- ✓ The new Karnataka 2018 law grants reservation in promotion and seniority to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) employees in the state.
- ✓ This judgment is significant as Karnataka becomes the first State to gain from a Constitution (5-judge) Bench order of September 2018 that modified a 2006 order requiring the States to show quantifiable data to prove the "backwardness" of a SC/ST community in order to provide quota in promotion in public employment.

8. What is the theme of the 2019 edition of World Migratory Bird Day?

- A] Unifying our Voices for Bird Conservation
- B] A Healthy Planet for Migratory Birds and People
- C] Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution**
- D] Energy – make it bird-friendly

- ✓ The World Migratory Bird Day is observed every year on 11th of May to raise awareness of issues affecting migratory birds and to inspire people and organizations around the world to take measures for their conservation.
- ✓ The 2019 theme - "Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution!" - will put the spotlight on the negative impact of plastic pollution on migratory birds and their habitats.

9. WHO has partnered with the International Food and Beverage Alliance (IFBA) to eliminate industrial trans-fat by which year?

- A] 2030
- B] 2023**
- C] 2025
- D] 2028

- ✓ The World Health Organization (WHO) has partnered with the International Food and Beverage Alliance (IFBA) to achieve its target under REPLACE initiative of eliminating industrial trans-fat from industrially produced global food supply by 2023.
- ✓ Trans-fat is also called the worst form of fat in food. It is responsible for over 5, 00, 000 deaths from coronary heart disease each year globally.
- ✓ Industrially-produced trans-fats are contained in hardened vegetable fats, such as margarine and ghee, and are often present in snack food, baked foods, and fried foods.

- ✓ Manufacturers often use them as they have a longer shelf life than other fats. But healthier alternatives can be used that would not affect taste or cost of food.

10. Where is the headquarters of Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL)?

- A] Raipur
- B] Ahmedabad
- C] Nagpur
- D] Navi Mumbai**

- ✓ The Konkan Railways Corporation Ltd (KRCL) has signed a contract agreement with Nepal's Department of Railways to supply two 1600 HP DEMU train sets. These trains will be used to operationalise railway link between Jayanagar in India and Kurtha in Nepal
- ✓ The train sets will be manufactured by the Integrated Coach Factory, Chennai. The 34 kms Jayanagar-Kurtha Railway Link has been built by IRCON with Government of India financial grant under India-Nepal Development Partnership programme.
- ✓ The KRCL is a Union Government Company headquartered at CBD Belapur in Navi Mumbai that operates Konkan Railway.