

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

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THIRD WEEK
CURRENT AFFAIRS

15 MAY - 21 MAY



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WINMEEN CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. Who won the 2019 men's singles title at the Madrid Open Tennis tournament?

A] Roger Federer

B] Stefanos Tsitsipas

C] Novak Djokovic

D] Rafael Nadal

✓ On 12th May 2019, Top seed Novak Djokovic of Serbia beat Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece 6-3, 6-4 to win his third Madrid Open Tennis title.

✓ Djokovic lifted the title in Madrid after progressing through the week without losing a set and has now won 33 Masters 1000 titles - the same number as Rafael Nadal and five more than Roger Federer.

2. Andre Russell, who has been named Most Valuable Player at the 2019 IPL tournament, is from which of the following teams?

A] Sunrisers Hyderabad

B] Kolkata Knight Riders

C] Chennai Super Kings

D] Mumbai Indians

✓ On 12th May 2019, Mumbai Indians became IPL champions for the fourth time after defeating Chennai Super Kings by one run in a thrilling final in Hyderabad. Last ball dismissal of Shardul Thakur by pacesman Lasith Malinga registered final win for Mumbai over Chennai.

✓ Chasing a victory target of 150 set by Mumbai, Chennai Super Kings were restricted to 148 for 7 in stipulated 20 overs. Skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni became the most successful wicket-keeper in the history of IPL by taking his dismissals tally to 132, surpassing his India teammate Dinesh Karthik.

✓ David Warner of Sunrisers Hyderabad won the Orange Cap for the leading run-scorer of the tournament with 692 runs. Imran Tahir, of Chennai Super Kings, was awarded the Purple Cap for finishing as the leading wicket-taker of the tournament with 26 wickets.

✓ Andre Russell of Kolkata Knight Riders was named Most Valuable Player, also known as Man of the Series, while Shubman Gill also of Kolkata Knight Riders was named the Emerging Player of the Tournament.

3. Which city is organizing the 2019 World Trade Organisation (WTO) ministerial meeting of developing countries?

A] New Delhi

B] Pune

C] Raipur

D] Bhopal

✓ On 13th May 2019, the World Trade Organisation (WTO) ministerial meeting of developing countries has started in New Delhi. The two-day meeting is being held at a time when the multilateral rule-based-trading system is facing serious and grave challenges.

✓ The meeting will provide an opportunity for the Ministers to discuss various issues and the way forward. Sixteen developing countries and six Least Developed Countries, LDCs are participating in the meeting. It includes China, South Africa, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Kazakhstan and Bangladesh.

✓ The Director-General of WTO Roberto Azevedo is also participating in the meeting. In two-day meeting following issues are likely to be discussed: Finding a solution to the ongoing impasse in the Appellate Body on an urgent basis.

4. Hiralal Yadav, who passed away recently, was the veteran musician of which regional cinema?

A] Urdu

B] Bhojpuri

C] Rajasthani

D] Marathi

- ✓ Hiralal Yadav (93), the Padma Shri awardee Bhojpuri folk singer, has passed away in Chowkaghat, Varanasi on May 12, 2019.
- ✓ Yadav was felicitated with 2019 Padma Shri award, the country's fourth highest civilian award. In 2015, he was honoured with Yash Bharti award by the UP government for his contribution in the field of music.

5. Which Indian cricketer has been featured in the world's first exclusive women's cricket magazine "CRICZONE"?

A] Sophie Devine

B] Harmanpreet Kaur

C] Mithali Raj

D] Smriti Mandhana

- ✓ The first edition of world's first exclusive women's cricket magazine 'Criczone' has been released in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- ✓ In it, Indian team cricket vice-captain Smriti Mandhana has featured as the cover story. The purpose of the magazine is to empower young aspiring women cricketers to take the sport as a profession and able to make a sustainable living.
- ✓ Top international cricketers like Mithali Raj, Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana along with overseas players like Danielle Wyatt, Sophie Devine attended the event which is held on the sidelines of the inaugural women's T20 challenge. Yash Lahoti is the publisher of the magazine.

6. Who won the 2019 McCain Institute Award for Courage and Leadership?

A] Rupal Jain

B] Chhaya Sharma

C] Urvashi Chaudhary

D] Deepa Mehta

- ✓ IPS officer Chhaya Sharma, who led the investigation team of the infamous Nirbhaya gang-rape and murder case, has been awarded the 2019 McCain Institute Award for Courage and Leadership.
- ✓ During her career, Chhaya has led teams in detection and investigation of sensitive criminal cases and protection of human rights. However, solving Nirbhaya's case is considered as the biggest milestone of her career.
- ✓ In 2017, Chhaya performed a crucial role in drafting Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines to Combat Trafficking of Persons in India. The award is granted to those who manifest courage on behalf of human rights, humanitarian compassion, justice, freedom, and human dignity. Some of the famous awardees are - Malala Yousafzai (2015) and Dikembe Mutombo (2016).

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

A] Human Right award

B] Militant Province

C] Educational Institution

D] Pilgrim

- ✓ Islamic State (IS) has claimed for the first time that it has established a "province" in India, after a clash between militants and security forces in the Kashmir region killed a militant with alleged ties to the group.

- ✓ The new 'province' is called "Wilayah of Hind" by the militant group. IS's Amaq News Agency also claimed IS inflicted casualties on Indian Army soldiers in the town of Amshipora in the Shopian district of Kashmir.
- ✓ IS has stepped up hit-and-run raids and suicide attacks, including taking responsibility for the Easter Sunday bombing in Sri Lanka that killed at least 253 people.

8. What is the theme of the 2019 edition of International Nurses Day?

- A] Nurses a Voice to Lead – A vital resource for health
- B] Nurses a Voice to Lead – Care Effective, Cost Effective
- C] Nurses a Voice to Lead – Health is a Human right

D] Nurses a Voice to Lead – Health for All

- ✓ The International Nurses Day is celebrated around the world on 12 May to highlight the importance of nurses' role in providing the best healthcare services.
- ✓ The day also observes the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, who was also known as 'The Lady with the Lamp'. She was famous as manager and trainer of nurses during the Crimean War. The theme for 2019 is – "Nurses a Voice to Lead – Health for All".

9. Apache Guardian helicopters, sometimes seen in news, is associated to which of the following countries?

- A] Japan
- B] United States**
- C] France
- D] Germany

- ✓ The Indian Air Force (IAF) has recently received the first AH-64E (I) - Apache Guardian helicopter at Boeing production facility in Mesa, Arizona in the United States. The AH-64E Apache is a leading multi-role attack helicopter and is flown by the US Army.

- ✓ The IAF had signed a multi-billion dollar contract with the US government and Boeing Ltd in September 2015 for 22 Apache helicopters.

- ✓ The first batch of these helicopters is scheduled to be shipped to India by July 2019. The helicopter has been customized to suit IAF's future requirement.

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

- A] Dinesh Maheshwari
- B] Gangambike Mallikarjun
- C] Abhay Shreeniwas Oka**
- D] Neelamani M Raju

- ✓ Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka has been sworn-in as the new Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court. Karnataka Governor Vajubhai R Vala administered the oath of office to Justice Oka at the Raj Bhavan.
- ✓ He succeeded Justice Dinesh Maheshwari, who was elevated as a Supreme Court judge in January 2019.
- ✓ Justice Oka has given many landmark judgements including those revolving around noise pollution, the rights of atheists and the right to give "no religion" as an option in government application forms, a judgement striking down the beef ban in Maharashtra and encouraging prison reforms, among others.

WINMEEN CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. Which of the bowlers has been adjudged as 2019 CEAT International Bowler of the Year?

- A] Jasprit Bumrah C] Rashid Khan
B] Kuldeep Yadav D] Ashutosh Aman

- ✓ Pacer Jasprit Bumrah, who made a mark for India and IPL franchise Mumbai Indians, has been adjudged as International Bowler of the Year during the CEAT Cricket Rating (CCR) International awards 2019. The ceremony was held in Mumbai in presence of a galaxy of past and present cricketers on May 13.
- ✓ Indian captain Virat Kohli bagged the International Cricketer and Batsman of the Year award. Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan was awarded for outstanding bowling and Australian batsman Aaron Finch for his exceptional performance in T20.
- ✓ Young prodigy Yashasvi Jaiswal, who performed exceptionally over the year was awarded Junior Cricketer of the Year, while Kuldeep Yadav took the home outstanding performance of the year award.
- ✓ Ashutosh Aman was awarded Domestic Cricketer of the Year. Legendary Mohinder Amarnath, who played a key role in India's 1983 World Cup triumph, was bestowed with the 'CCR International Lifetime Achievement Award'.

2. The United Nations (UN) has decided to hold its 2020 ocean conference in which of the following cities?

- A] New York C] New Delhi
B] Paris D] Lisbon

- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has decided to hold the high-level 2020 United Nations Conference in Lisbon, Portugal from June 2 to 6 to support the sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources.
- ✓ The UNGA also decided that the conference shall involve all relevant stakeholders, bringing together governments, the UN system, intergovernmental organizations and all other actors to assess challenges

and opportunities relating to, as well as actions taken toward, the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14.

3. Who of the following spinners has become the world's most successful women's ODI spinner?

- A] Cathryn Fitzpatrick C] Jhulan Goswami
B] Sana Mir D] Rajeshwari Gayakwad

- ✓ Pakistan off-spinner Sana Mir bagged the title of the most successful women ODI's spinner in the world after she dismissed Sune Luus from South Africa in the third ODI of ICC Women's Championship on May 12. It was Sana's 147th ODI wicket in her 118th appearance.
- ✓ With this, she jumped to top sending West Indies' player Anisa Mohammed and Australia's Lisa Sthalekar on No. 3 on the list of all-time successful bowlers. Overall, Sana Mir is the third highest wicket-taker after pacers Jhulan Goswami of India (218) wickets) and Cathryn Fitzpatrick of Australia (180).
- ✓ Prior to this, Mir had also become the first Pakistani bowler to head the ICC rankings in October of 2018.

4. Which country has started test run on worlds' fastest-ever bullet train "Alfa-X"?

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

- ✓ Japan has started testing it's fastest-ever shinkansen bullet train "Alfa-X", which is capable of reaching 400 kilometres per hour (249 mph). The train is scheduled to go into service in 2030 and will run at speeds of up to 360 kph (224 mph). With this feat, it will become the world's fastest bullet train.
- ✓ This bullet train will be even faster than Fuxing train in China, which runs 10 kph slower than Alfa-X. The model's futuristic design features 10 cars and a long pointed nose.

- ✓ Alfa-X train is packed with the latest technological features like - vibration sensors, temperature sensors - and its distinct 72 ft long aerodynamic nose is dramatically elongated to minimise noise and pressure when passing through tunnels.
- ✓ ALFA-X also features sensors to reduce the impact of possible earthquake tremors.

5. Yuvika 2019, which is in news recently, is associated to which of the organizations?

A] ISRO C] BSNL

B] RBI D] DRDO

- ✓ ISRO Chairman Dr. K Sivan has recently inaugurated Young Scientist Programme (Yuvika-2019) for school children at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ The initiative is primarily aimed at imparting basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to the younger ones with the intent of arousing their interest in the emerging areas of Space activities.
- ✓ The Yuvika (Yuva Vigyani KAryakram) 2019, which will be conducted from May 13 to 26, is a two week summer vacation residential training programme. It is launched by ISRO in tune with the Union Government's vision 'Jai Vigyan, Jai Anusandhan'.

6. Who won the women's singles title at the 2019 Madrid Open tennis tournament?

A] Serena Williams C] Simona Halep

B] Naomi Osaka D] Kiki Bertens

- ✓ Kiki Bertens has won women's singles title at the 2019 Madrid Open tennis tournament. In the final, she defeated Simona Halep 6-4, 6-4 in straight sets to win the coveted title.

7. Which insurance company has recently launched the Mosquito Disease Protection Policy?

A] Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance C] LIC

B] HDFC ERGO

D] SBI Life Insurance

- ✓ HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company has recently launched the 'Mosquito Disease Protection Policy'. This new policy will cover an individual against common mosquito-borne diseases like Dengue Fever, Malaria, Chikungunya, Japanese Encephalitis, Kala-azar, Lymphatic Filariasis and Zika Virus.
- ✓ According to the report published by National Health Profile 2018, there has been an alarming rise in dengue cases in India, an increase of 300% between 2009-2017. These diseases also lead to hospitalization adding burden on expense or affecting the No Claim Bonus of any standard Health Insurance.
- ✓ Hence, keeping this in mind, HDFC ERGO launched this new policy which will cover hospitalisation expenses incurred during the treatment of any mosquito-borne disease. Alternatively, the policyholder may opt for a lump sum amount to be paid as a policy benefit on providing the proof of hospitalization.
- ✓ In addition, the policy will pay the beneficiary the sum insured in case of the policyholder's death due to the disease. This cover is available for individuals between the age group of 91 days to 65 years.

8. Nabventures, which has launched its first-ever venture capital fund for agriculture and rural-focused startups, is the subsidiary of which of the following organizations?

A] ICICI C] **NABARD**

B] NHB D] SBI

- ✓ Nabventures, a subsidiary of NABARD, has recently launched its first-ever Rs 700-crore venture capital fund for equity investments in agriculture and rural-focused startups.
- ✓ The fund will have a high impact as it will provide a boost to investment ecosystem in the core areas of

agriculture, food and improvement of rural livelihoods. The Nabventures Fund has a proposed corpus of Rs 500 crore with a greenshoe option of Rs 200 crore and has also received an anchor commitment from NABARD.

- ✓ Till now, NABARD has been contributing to other funds and this is the first time that the rural development bank has launched a fund of its own. NABARD is now 100% owned by the government, which has been focusing on startups through a slew of measures.

an Asia cultural carnival, Asian civilization week, and an Asian food festival.

- ✓ Around 1500 experts from around the world, including heads of state and high-level governmental representatives, are invited to attend the conference which seeks to promote intercultural dialogue in view of building an "Asian Community of Shared Future".

9. Which of the following countries have jointly organized the 2019 ADMM-PLUS maritime exercise?

A] Singapore & India C] Indonesia & Vietnam

B] Singapore & South Korea D] India & New Zealand

- ✓ The 18 nations ADMM-Plus (Asean Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus) multilateral maritime security field exercise has recently concluded in Singapore on May 13. The exercise was jointly organised by Singapore and South Korea, which was started in Busan on Apr30.
- ✓ This is the 4th such exercise conducted under the ADMM-Plus grouping. The ADMM-Plus consists of 10 ASEAN countries along with Australia, China, Japan, India, South Korea, New Zealand, Russia and the United States.

10. Which country is hosting Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations?

A] Australia C] India

B] China D] New Zealand

- ✓ China is hosting Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations in close collaboration with UNESCO in its capital city Beijing from 15 to 22 May, 2019. The conference will focus on themes of the exchange and mutual learning of Asia civilizations, and a community of shared future.
- ✓ During the event, an opening ceremony and six parallel sessions will be held. Other activities include

WINMEEN CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. Who has been appointed as the first female match referee by ICC?

- A] Mary Waldron C] Shivani Mishra
 B] Jacqueline Williams D] **G S Lakshmi**

- ✓ India's G.S. Lakshmi has become the first-ever woman to be appointed to ICC's International Panel of Match Referees and will be eligible to officiate in international games with immediate effect.
- ✓ Lakshmi, 51, who first officiated as a match referee in domestic women's cricket in 2008-09, has overseen three women's ODI matches and three women's T20 International matches. Her compatriot Claire Polosak recently became the first female umpire to officiate in a men's One-Day International (ODI).
- ✓ In another major appointment, Australia's Eloise Sheridan has joined Polosak on the ICC Development Panel of Umpires, meaning the number of women on that panel is now up to eight. Lauren Agenbag, Kim Cotton, Shivani Mishra, Sue Redfern, Mary Waldron and Jacqueline Williams are the other women officials on that panel.

2. India has been chosen to co-chair Consultative Group (CG) of GFDRR in which fiscal year?

- A] 2021 C] 2022
 B] 2023 D] **2020**

- ✓ India has been unanimously chosen as co-chair of the Consultative Group of Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) for the fiscal year 2020. The decision was taken during the meeting of GFDRR held in Geneva, Switzerland on the margins of the 6th Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) 2019.
- ✓ This will give India an opportunity to work with the member countries and organizations with a focused contribution towards advancing the disaster risk reduction agenda during the course of the year.

- ✓ The GFDRR is a global partnership that helps developing countries better understand and reduce their vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change. It is a grant-funding mechanism, managed by the World Bank, that supports disaster risk management projects worldwide.

3. Who has become the world's first woman to cross the Atlantic Ocean solo in a Light Sports Aircraft (LSA)?

- A] **Aarohi Pandit** C] Sarla Thakral
 B] Durba Banerjee D] Avani Chaturvedi

- ✓ Captain Aarohi Pandit, a 23-year-old pilot from Mumbai, has become the world's first woman to cross the Atlantic Ocean solo in a Light Sports Aircraft (LSA).
- ✓ She completed the feat when she landed at Iqaluit Airport in Canada on 13 May, having flown there from Wick in the UK. Her journey was broken into five legs, with stops at Iceland and Greenland. It also made Pandit the first female pilot in the world to successfully complete a solo flight across the Greenland ice cap in an LSA.
- ✓ This is part of her ongoing year-long global circumnavigation flight which was launched by friend Keithair Misquitta on July 30. Both the friends began their trip for Women Empower (WE) Expedition in the tiny aircraft christened 'Mahi' in August 2018.
- ✓ 'Mahi' is a tiny, single-engine Sinus 912 weighing a little of 400 kg or nearly equivalent to a Bullet motorcycle, manufactured by Pipistrel of Slovenia, and is also the first LSA registered by Directorate-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) India.

4. In Madhya Pradesh, women will handle the entire work of counting votes in which of the following districts?

- A] Jabalpur C] Indore
 B] **Harda** D] Burhanpur

- ✓ In Madhya Pradesh, women will handle the entire work of counting votes in Harda district of the state. As per reports, the initiative is probably the first of its kind. Harda district is a part of Betul parliamentary seat and the counting of votes of Timarni and Harda assembly segments will take place at Harda district headquarter.
- ✓ At present, 84 women are being trained for counting in Polytechnic College. Apart from the counting of votes, only women will be deployed for the security of the counting centre. More than 75 percent of voting has been recorded in Harda district, so the number of votes is also high.

5. The scientists at which lab created a new type of plastic 'PDK' that can be recycled forever?

A] Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

B] Los Alamos National Laboratory

C] Oak Ridge National Laboratory

D] Argonne National Laboratory

- ✓ A team of researchers at the US Department of Energy's (DOE) Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory has created a next-generation plastic, called Poly Di-Ketoamine (or PDK), that can be fully recycled into new materials of any colour, shape, or form, without loss of performance or quality.
- ✓ They have designed a recyclable plastic that, like a Lego playset, can be disassembled into its constituent parts at the molecular level. According to the journal Nature Chemistry, unlike conventional plastics, the monomers of PDK plastic could be recovered and freed from any compounded additives simply by dunking the material in a highly acidic solution.

6. France and which country have jointly launched a new initiative 'Christchurch Call' against online extremism?

A] United Kingdom C] New Zealand

B] Poland D] Germany

- ✓ At Paris summit, French President Emmanuel Macron and New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern launched an ambitious new initiative to eliminate terrorist and violent content online.
- ✓ The initiative, "Christchurch Call", was pushed by Ms Ardern after a white supremacist gunned down 51 people at two mosques in the New Zealand city in March. Participants will be asked to commit to pledges to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content on social media and other online platforms
- ✓ The political meeting will run in parallel to an initiative launched by Macron called 'Tech for Good' which will bring together 80 tech chiefs in Paris to find a way for new technologies to work for the common good.

7. National Vesak Week, which is in news recently, is associated to which of the following religions?

A] Christianity

C] Hinduism

B] Jainism

D] Buddhism

- ✓ On May 15, Sri Lanka has declared a National Vesak Week to mark the most significant event for Buddhists all over the world. The festival commemorates the birth, enlightenment (Buddhahood), and death (Parinirvāna) of Gautama Buddha in the Theravada or southern tradition.
- ✓ The Vesak Festival- 2019 will be held under tight security and people have been encouraged to organize celebrations at Buddhist temples and not in public places in the wake of Easter Sunday attacks last month.
- ✓ The state Vesak festival will be held in Galle under the patronage of the President Maithripala Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe.

8. Who has been appointed head coach of the Indian men's senior football team?

A] Hakan Ericson

C] Igor Stimac

B] Albert Roca D] Lee Min-Sung

- ✓ Croatian World Cupper Igor Stimac has been appointed head coach of the Indian men's senior football team for a two-year term. The national team has been without a coach since the departure of Stephen Constantine in January, following the creditable show at the AFC Asian Cup.
- ✓ Stimac comes with an experience of over 18 years in coaching. As a coach, Stimac's major achievement was guiding Croatia to qualify for the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil. As a player, he was part of the Croatia team that finished third in the 1998 World Cup.

9. *Lecanorchis taiwaniana*, which is in news recently, has discovered in which of the following Indian states?

A] Meghalaya C] Mizoram

B] Nagaland **D] Assam**

- ✓ In Assam, a type of orchid - *Lecanorchis taiwaniana* (parasitic bloom) - has coincidentally discovered by Assam's forest officer named Jatindra Sarma.
- ✓ The parasitic bloom is a variant of a Japanese orchid. It is found to have a maximum height of 40 cm and a blossoming period of five-six days.
- ✓ It is a Myco-heterotroph and is one of two types of parasitic plants that have abandoned photosynthesis. The discovery titled "New record for the flora in India" is recently published in Japanese Journal of Botany.

10. Teressa Island is located in which of the following union territories of India?

A] Lakshadweep C] Puducherry

B] Andaman & Nicobar D] Daman & Diu

- ✓ On May 9, the Indian Armed Forces carried out Exercise Bull Strike at Teressa Island in Andaman and Nicobar (A&N). The military drill was conducted to showcase joint operations capability of the armed forces.

- ✓ During the exercise, the army personnel got the chance to display their prowess by undertaking company level airborne operation at Teressa Island.
- ✓ Around 170 troops from three services – Army, Navy and the Air force undertook Para drop Ops in a Combat Free Fall & Static Line mode from the C-130 J. There were 149 Indian Army, 12 Indian Air Force and 9 Indian Navy soldiers who participated in several combat drills ahead of the jumps and during jumps.

WINMEEN CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. Which country to host the 2023 Asian Cup Football tournament?

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

- ✓ The 2023 Asian Cup Football tournament will be hosted by China after South Korea withdraws its bid. The Korea Football Association (KFA) said in a statement it had pulled out to "strategically focus" on a joint bid with North Korea to host the Women's World Cup in the same year.
- ✓ The 2023 AFC Asian Cup is the quadrennial international men's football championship of Asia organised by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

2. Which of the following organizations has released the 'Payment and Settlement Systems in India: Vision 2019 – 2021'?

- A] SBI C] IRDA
B] SEBI D] RBI

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released a vision document - Payment and Settlement Systems in India: Vision 2019 – 2021 - with its core theme of 'Empowering Exceptional E-payment Experience', for ensuring a safe, secure, convenient, quick and affordable e-payment system.
- ✓ The move comes as the apex bank expects the number of digital transactions to increase more than four times to 8,707 crore in December 2021.
- ✓ The vision document has been envisages to achieve a highly digital and cash-less society through the goal posts of competition, cost-effectiveness, convenience and confidence (4Cs).
- ✓ The document talks about creating customer awareness, setting up a 24X7 helpline and self-regulatory organisation for system operators and service providers, among others. And also, the 'no-

compromise' approach towards safety and security of payment systems remains a hallmark of the vision.

3. Which country has recently blocked all language editions of Wikipedia?

- A] United States C] China
B] Iran D] Russia

- ✓ China has expanded its ban on Wikipedia to block the community-edited online encyclopedia in all available languages. Hence, Wikipedia had joined thousands of other websites which cannot be accessed in China.
- ✓ According to a report by the Open Observatory of Network Interference (OONI), China started blocking all language editions of Wikipedia from April 2019.
- ✓ China's online censorship apparatus -- dubbed the 'Great Firewall' - blocks a large number of foreign sites in the country, such as Google, Facebook, LinkedIn and The New York Times. Topics that are deemed too sensitive are also scrubbed.
- ✓ An earlier enforced ban barred Internet users from viewing the Chinese version, as well as the pages for sensitive search terms such as Dalai Lama and the Tiananmen massacre.

4. Which Indian judge has been appointed as Judge of Supreme Court of Fiji?

- A] Sharad Arvind Bobde C] Madan B Lokur
B] N V Ramana D] Abhay Manohar Sapre

- ✓ Justice Madan B Lokur, the Retired Supreme Court judge of India, has been appointed to the Supreme Court of Fiji as a judge of its non-resident panel.
- ✓ He he received the offer from the Chief Justice of the Fiji Supreme Court on the day of his superannuation from the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court of Fiji has three sessions in a year. Justice Lokur will attend the August session from August 15 to August 30, 2019.

5. The first full-fledged Services Selection Board (SSB) of Indian Navy has opened in which of the following cities?

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

- ✓ The first full-fledged Services Selection Board (SSB) of Indian Navy has been inaugurated by Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba at Diamond Harbour near Kolkata.
- ✓ The SSB (Kolkata) will boost the induction of officers, both men and women, into the Indian Navy. Its location will reduce the travel time and effort for candidates from northern and northeastern parts of the country.
- ✓ This is the fifth SSB of the Indian Navy and will cater for selection of both permanent and short service commission officers. The other boards are located in Bhopal, Bengaluru, Visakhapatnam and Coimbatore.

6. Who has been appointed as the new CMD of ITC Ltd?

- A] Sanjay Kishan Kaul C] Ajay Khanwilkar
B] L. Nageswara Rao D] Sanjiv Puri

- ✓ Sanjiv Puri has been appointed as the new CMD (Chairman and managing director) of ITC Ltd, India's largest cigarette maker. He will take over the legacy of noted industry leader and erstwhile ITC Chairman Y.C. Deveshwar, who passed away on 11 May.
- ✓ Prior to this post, Mr. Puri was the Managing Director since 2018. He was appointed on the board in December 2015 and as the CEO in February 2017.

7. What is the theme of the 2019 edition of International Day of Families?

- A] Families and inclusive societies
B] Families and Climate Action: Focus on SDG 13
C] Families, education and well-being
D] Families, healthy lives and sustainable future

- ✓ The International Day of Families is observed every year on May 15 to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting families.
- ✓ The 2019 theme "Families and Climate Action: Focus on SDG 13" focuses on families, family policies and major SDG 13 targets such as improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, and impact reduction and early warning.

8. Which of the following banks has launched co-branded multi-currency travel card with Goibibo?

- A] SBI C] HDFC Bank
B] ICICI Bank D] Axis Bank

- ✓ ICICI Bank has launched a co-branded multi-currency card with online travel booking portal Goibibo. Anyone travelling abroad, whether they hold an ICICI Bank savings account or not, can apply for the Goibibo ICICI Bank Travel Card on the Goibibo website & mobile app.
- ✓ The acceptance of the card is across 200 countries and 4.6 crore merchants globally. Further, the card can be loaded with up to 15 currencies. Customers can instantly transfer money from one currency to another through ICICI Bank's internet portal and reload currency into the card anytime, anywhere, using the bank's mobile and internet banking platform. Customers get 40 paise discount on currency conversion rate on loading of a minimum of \$1,000.

9. Who has been appointed as the new chairperson of News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA)?

- A] S. Abdul Nazeer C] Arjan Kumar Sikri
B] Navin Sinha D] Vineet Saran

- ✓ Justice Arjan Kumar Sikri, the former judge of Supreme Court of India (SCI), has been appointed as the chairperson of News Broadcasting Standards

Authority (NBSA) by the News Broadcasters Association (NBA).

- ✓ He will succeed Justice (Retd.) R. V. Raveendran, and will assume the office of Chairperson of NBSA on May 26. This is an honorary post and not a government job.
- ✓ NBSA is an independent body for self-regulation of 24x7 news channels, who are members of the NBA. Its task is to consider and adjudicate upon complaints about broadcasts.

10. The 2019 International Army Scout Masters Competition will be held in which of the following cities?

A] Jhansi C] Jabalpur

B] Dehradun **D] Jaisalmer**

- ✓ The 5th edition of "International Army Scout Masters Competition" will be organized under the aegis of Konark Corps at Jaisalmer, Rajasthan from 24 July to 17 August 2019.
- ✓ This is the first time that India is the venue for the Army Scouts Masters Competition, which is part of International Army Games steered by Russia. It is also for the first time that an Indian team will participate in this competition.
- ✓ The event will witness participation of the Mechanised Infantry Scout Teams of 8 countries including Russia who is the founding member of this format of International Army Games.
- ✓ The competition will be conducted in five stages, which will test the overall skills of Mechanised Infantry Scouts in simulated battle field scenarios.
- ✓ The combat skills will be adjudicated by a panel of international judges and referees. The competition will showcase combat training and promote camaraderie amongst the contestants, facilitate sharing of best practices as well as develop military and technical cooperation between participating nations.

WINMEEN CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. The Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI) is associated to which of the following organizations?

- A] OECD C] United Nations
B] IMF D] World Bank

- ✓ India has found problems with the current method under which the OECD index – Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI) – ranks countries based on their services trade policies. As per study commissioned by Indian Ministry of Commerce, the outcomes of index are biased and counter-intuitive.
- ✓ For example, the index seems to show the Indian services sector as one of the most restrictive, particularly in policy areas like foreign entry. This seems surprising as since 1991, the one area that has seen maximum liberalization in India is Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).
- ✓ The initial work suggests that there are both theoretical and practical inconsistencies in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) methodology.
- ✓ In order to rectify this, the Indian team of econometricians designed a new way of measuring restrictiveness in the services trade that would be more robust and would not have a bias either for developed or developing countries.

2. ICGS Vighraha, which is recently decommissioned at Visakhapatnam, is which class of offshore patrol vessel?

- A] Samar C] Priyadarshini
B] Jija Bai D] Vikram

- ✓ After 29 glorious years of service from 1990 to 2019, the Indian Coast Guard ship (ICGS) Vighraha has recently decommissioned at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh on May 16.
- ✓ During the 29 years of service, the ship has participated in major coast guard operations involving search and rescue, anti-poaching, disaster relief and joint exercises among others.

- ✓ ICGS Vighraha was the 7th Vikram-class offshore patrol vessel built by the Mazagaon Dock Limited, Mumbai and it was commissioned on April 12, 1990.

3. What is the theme of the 2019 edition of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day?

- A] Women and Girls in ICT
B] Bridging the standardization gap
C] Enabling the positive use of Artificial Intelligence
D] Big Data for Big Impact

- ✓ The World Telecommunication and Information Society Day is observed across the globe every year on May 17 to help raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide.
- ✓ The 2019 theme is 'Bridging the standardization gap'. The day also marks the anniversary of the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention (ITC) and the creation of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

4. Cocos (Keeling) Islands is an external territory of which of the following countries?

- A] India C] Sri Lanka
B] Australia D] Indonesia

- ✓ A comprehensive survey on plastic pollution has been conducted by marine scientists on the Australian external territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands. Around 600 people live in these remote places, which are sometimes described as "Australia's last unspoilt paradise".
- ✓ The scientists found an estimated 414 million pieces of plastic including nearly one million shoes and 370,000 toothbrushes on the beaches of remote Islands in the

Indian Ocean. The survey published in the journal 'Scientific Reports' estimated that the beaches on the islands are littered with 238 tonnes of plastic.

5. Which of the sculptors has topped the first edition of the Hurun India Art List?

- A] Subodh Gupta B] Akbar Padamsee
C] Anish Kapoor D] Krishen Khanna

- ✓ With sales estimated at Rs. 168.25 crore, London-based sculptor Anish Kapoor has topped the first edition of the Hurun India Art List. He is followed by artists Akbar Padamsee and Krishen Khanna, whose works were sold for Rs 45.84 crore and Rs 9.48 crore respectively.
- ✓ The Hurun Research Institute has ranked the top 50 Indian artists alive based on the sales of their works at public auction from April 2018 to March 2019. The report is based on data from top auction-houses and agencies in the industry.
- ✓ Hurun Report India in association with ArtPrice.com has recently unveiled the first edition of its India Art List, in which 24% of artists listed were women.
- ✓ Mr. Kapoor is known for using granite, marble, limestone and plaster to make geometric structures. He is the only artist to own the exclusive right to use the 'blackest black' pigment in the world developed by Vantablack.

6. Kadavoor Sivadasan, who passed away recently, was the veteran politician of which of the following parties?

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

- ✓ Kadavoor Sivadasan (87), the veteran Congress leader and former Kerala Minister, has passed away in Thiruvananthapuram on May 17, 2019.

7. Who is the author of the book "Coming Round the Mountain"? (Marks: 0)

- A] Ruskin Bond** C] Devdutt Pattanaik
 B] Ashok Rajagopalan D] Anushka Ravishankar

- ✓ The book titled "Coming Round the Mountain", will be released officially by India's beloved children's author Ruskin Bond on his 85th birthday on 19th May 2019 at Cambridge bookstores in Mussourie.
- ✓ The book is the third installment of Bond's award-winning memoir series for children that includes "Looking for the Rainbow" and "Till the Clouds Roll By".

8. Which Bollywood personality has been felicitated by Council of European Chambers of Commerce (CEUCC) for promoting Children Rights?

- A] Aamir Khan C] Akshay Kumar
 B] Ajay Devgn **D] Anil Kapoor**

- ✓ Bollywood actor Anil Kapoor has been felicitated by Council of European Chambers of Commerce (CEUCC) in India and a European Union delegation as part of the 'Europe Day' celebrations in Mumbai on May 17.
- ✓ He has been felicitated for his decade-long support to promoting the cause of children's rights and his collaboration with the EU and Plan India in their girls' rights endeavours.
- ✓ The event also highlighted how Europe has always been a favourite shooting destination for Indian filmmakers for many decades. The Europe Day is celebrated every year on May 9 to mark the formation of the European Union (EU).

9. Which Indian personality has been awarded the UN Sasakawa Award 2019 for Disaster Risk Reduction?

- A] Ajit Kumar Doval **C] P K Mishra**
 B] Kunal Sinha D] Nripendra Mishra

- ✓ Dr. Pramod Kumar Mishra, Odisha-born IAS officer and Additional Principal Secretary to the Prime

Minister of India, has been conferred with the prestigious United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction for the year 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland.

- ✓ He received the 2019 Sasakawa award in recognition of his long-term dedication to improve the resilience of communities most exposed to disasters and his personal commitment to social inclusion as a critical principle to reduce inequality and poverty, enhancing the safety net of the socially and economically marginalized.
- ✓ The UN Sasakawa Award is the most prestigious international award in the area of Disaster Risk Management. It was instituted more than 30 years ago and is jointly organized by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the Nippon Foundation.
- ✓ A total grant of USD 50,000 is distributed among the winners which can be either organizations or individuals. The theme of the 2019 Sasakawa award was "Building Inclusive and Resilient Societies".

10. The tripartite MoU signed between NMCG, HCL Foundation and INTACH for Rudraksh Plantation in which of the following states?

- A] Uttar Pradesh **C] Uttarakhand**
B] West Bengal D] Bihar

- ✓ As an initiative towards a greener ecosystem in Ganga Basin, the tripartite MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) was signed between National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), HCL Foundation and INTACH for taking up a project of 'Plantation of Rudraksh Trees in Uttarakhand' under the 'Namami Gange' Programme.
- ✓ The aim of the project is to plant 10 thousand Rudraksh trees in the catchment area of river Ganga in Uttarakhand in association with local community and other stakeholders. It will also help in generating income for people residing in those areas.

- ✓ The aim of the Namami Gange Mission is to provide comprehensive and sustainable solutions for a cleaner ecosystem along the stretch of 97 towns and over 4 thousand 4 hundred villages on the Ganga stem and a public-private partnership will provide the initiative a much-needed impetus.

WINMEEN CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. What is the theme of the 2019 edition of World Metrology Day?

- A] The International System of Units – Light
 B] The International System of Units – Commerce
 C] The International System of Units – Transport

D] The International System of Units - Fundamentally better

- ✓ The World Metrology Day (WMD) is observed every year on May 20 to commemorate anniversary of the signing of the Metre Convention in 1875.
- ✓ The treaty provides the basis for a coherent measurement system worldwide that underpins scientific discovery and innovation, industrial manufacturing and international trade, as well as the improvement of the quality of life and the protection of the global environment. The 2019 theme is “The International System of Units - Fundamentally better”.

2. Who clinched the men’s title at the 2019 Italian Open Tennis tournament?

- A] Novak Djokovic **C] Rafael Nadal**
 B] Andy Murray D] Roger Federer

- ✓ In Tennis, defending champion Rafael Nadal of Spain has clinched the Italian Open 2019 title after beating Novak Djokovic 6-0, 4-6, 6-1 in the final in Rome on May 19. This is Nadal's ninth Italian Open title. It is the 81st title of Nadal's career.
- ✓ Nadal also broke a tie with Djokovic by claiming a record 34th ATP Masters 1000 crown. Whereas, in Women's single Czech's Karolina Pliskova registered two straight-set victory against Britain's Johanna Konta 6-3, 6-4 to claim the Italian Open title.

3. The researchers at which Canadian university has developed a specialized microscope that can diagnose skin cancer & perform surgeries?

A] University of British Columbia

- B] McGill University
 C] University of Toronto
 D] Mount Royal University

- ✓ The researchers at University of British Columbia (UBC) in Canada have developed a specialized microscope that has the potential to diagnose diseases like skin cancer as well as perform precise surgery without making any incisions in the skin.
- ✓ According to the study published in the journal Science Advances, the microscope allows medical professionals to pinpoint the exact location of an abnormality, diagnose it and treat it instantly.
- ✓ This technology will make possible to scan tissue quickly, and when they see a suspicious or abnormal cell structure, they can perform ultra-precise surgery and selectively treat the unwanted or diseased structure within the tissue.
- ✓ It could be used to treat any structure of the body that can be reached by light and requires extremely precise treatment, including nerves or blood vessels in the skin, eye, brain or other vital structures.
- ✓ The study shows that the device allows imaging of living tissue up to about one millimetre in depth using an ultrafast infrared laser beam.

4. Which committee has recently submitted report on digital payments to RBI?

- A] Kishore Sansi committee
B] Nandan Nilekani committee
 C] H R Khan committee
 D] Aruna Sharma committee

- ✓ A Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - appointed committee headed by Aadhaar architect Nandan Nilekani

submitted its report on promoting digital payments to RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on May 17.

- ✓ The RBI will examine the recommendations of the committee and will link the action points, wherever necessary, in its Payment Systems Vision 2021 for implementation.
- ✓ Earlier this week, the RBI released the 'Payment and Settlement Systems in India: Vision 2019 – 2021', for ensuring a safe, secure, convenient, quick and affordable e-payment system with an aim making India a 'cash-lite' society.

5. Which state has become the first Indian state to list Masala Bond in overseas market?

- A) Kerala B) Odisha
C) Andhra Pradesh D) Karnataka

- ✓ On May 17, Kerala became the first sub-sovereign entity in the country to access the international market by listing masala bonds issued through its off-budget mechanism - the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB).
- ✓ Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has become the debutant head of state in the country to open trading at the London Stock Exchange (LSE) for the day.
- ✓ The resources earned through the bonds would be channelised for funding a clutch of infrastructure development projects cleared by the KIIFB director board. KIIFB is a state agency that mobilises fund for infrastructural projects, over and beyond funds earmarked in the budgets.

6. Ieoh Ming Pei, who passed away recently, was the renowned architect of which country?

- A) Japan C) Singapore
B) South Korea D) China

- ✓ Ieoh Ming Pei (102), the Chinese-American architect behind buildings including the glass pyramid outside the Louvre in Paris, has passed away in Manhattan,

United States on May 16, 2019. Pei sparked controversy for his pyramid at the Louvre Museum.

- ✓ The glass structure, completed in 1989, is now one of Paris' most famous landmarks. His other work includes Dallas City Hall and Japan's Miho Museum. In 1983, Pei was given the prestigious Pritzker Prize.

7. On which date, the 2019 edition of World AIDS Vaccine Day is observed?

- A) May 18 C) May 19
B) May 20 D) May 21

- ✓ The World AIDS Vaccine Day is observed every year on 18th May to spread awareness about the urgent need for a vaccine to prevent HIV infection and AIDS. The day is also known as HIV Vaccine Awareness Day.
- ✓ It is also a day to thank volunteers, researchers, scientists, community member, health professionals and everyone else who is working to eradicate the disease and find ways for safe and effective HIV vaccines.

8. The 26th naval drill exercise "SIMBEX-19" has started between India and which of the following countries?

- A) Singapore C) Sweden
B) South Africa D) Saudi Arabia

- ✓ The 26th edition of Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX)-19 has commenced in the South China Sea on May 19.
- ✓ The 4-day naval drill exercise will include various maritime combat drills such as advanced aerial tracking, coordinated targeting tactical exercises and weapon firing on aerial and surface targets.
- ✓ In addition to IN Ships Kolkata and Shakti, Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft P8I will also participate in the exercise along with Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) Ships steadfast and valiant, maritime patrol aircraft F-50 and F-16 fighter aircraft.

9. Which of the following mountaineers has successfully scaled Mt. Everest for record 23rd time?

- A] Dachhiri Sherpa C] Kami Rita Sherpa
B] Phurba Tashi Sherpa D] Apa Sherpa

- ✓ A renowned Nepali mountaineer, Kami Rita Sherpa has created history by successfully scaling the Mount Everest peak (8848m) for the 23rd time on May 14, 2019.
- ✓ He broke his own record of the most successful ascents of the world's highest peak. Kami Rita, who is from Thame village in Solukhumbu district, scaled the Mount Everest for the first on May 13, 1994.
- ✓ He has already climbed most of the peaks above 8,000 m including K2, Cho-Oyu, Lhoste, and Annapurna among others. He is currently working as a senior guide at Seven Summit Treks.

10. Project SPARROW, which is in news recently, is associated to which of the following union ministries?

- A] Ministry of Finance C] Ministry of Home Affairs
B] Ministry of Railways D] Ministry of Defence

- ✓ The Union Ministry of Finance has launched Project Sparrow for online writing of Annual Performance Appraisal Report (APAR) in SPARROW (Smart Performance Appraisal Report Recording Online Window) for Group 'B' and 'C' Officers of Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC).
- ✓ SPARROW-CBIC is one of its kinds in terms of Scale/ number of employees covered as far as Central Government Departments are concerned. It brings a complete change in APAR management of such large number of Group 'B' & 'C' Officers/ Staff of CBIC, which would, in turn, lead to better HR Management.
- ✓ This Project leverages modern technology for enhancing the overall efficiency and morale of the huge workforce working in Central GST and Customs formations of CBIC. The Project is an important milestone in the journey towards digitization and paper less working.