



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 02-02-2021

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

President of India launched the Pulse Polio Programme for 2021 by administering polio drops to children less than five years old at the Rashtrapati Bhawan. The drops were administered on the eve of the Polio National Immunization Day, observed on the 31st January 2021, popularly known as Polio Ravivar. Around 17 crore children of less than 5 years of age will be given polio drops as part of the drive of the Government of India to sustain the polio-free status of the country. The strategy of the Pulse Polio Immunization Programme was conceived in December 1993 and it was rolled out from 2nd October 1994 when the first child was immunized against Polio as part of this program. The last case of Polio in India was reported in Howrah on 13th January 2011. India has been free of Polio for a decade now.

2. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The Prime Minister recently addressed the 125th anniversary celebrations of 'Prabuddha Bharata', a monthly journal of the Ramakrishna Order, started by Swami Vivekananda. Prime Minister said that Swami Vivekananda named the journal Prabuddha Bharata to manifest the spirit of our nation. Swami ji wanted to create an 'Awakened India', beyond just a political or territorial entity. "Swami Vivekananda saw India as a cultural consciousness that has been living and breathing for centuries", said the Prime Minister.

3. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Lucknow Metro has become the 1st metro in the country to use ultraviolet rays to sanitise train coaches.

4. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

The Centre is on track to push the 2021 Census to 2022 on account of the country's continuing preoccupation with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Background:

The Census exercise was to be conducted in two phases — House Listing and Housing Census from April to September 2020 and Population Enumeration from February 9 to February 28, 2021. The first phase of the Census and the updating of the National Population Register (NPR) were initially to be rolled out in

some States on April 1, 2020, but were postponed due to the pandemic. The Census was first started under British Viceroy Lord Mayo in 1872. It helped in framing new policies, government programs to uplift areas of improvement in the community. The first synchronous census in India was held in 1881. Since then, censuses have been undertaken uninterruptedly once every ten years. The responsibility of conducting the decennial Census rests with the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India under Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

5. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

India delivers 2 cranes for Chabahar. This is part of a bilateral contract between India and Iran signed in May 2016 for \$85 million to equip and operationalise the port. Amid talks with Iranian authorities, it signals a push to the port project. India's plans to invest further in the port project are seen as an indicator that the government expects some easing up in U.S. sanctions in the upcoming months, once the new Biden administration begins to address its policy on re-entering the Iran nuclear deal. Located on the Gulf of Oman and is the only oceanic port of the country. With this, India can bypass Pakistan in transporting goods to Afghanistan.

6. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

On January 31, Stardust 1.0 was launched from Loring Commerce Centre in Maine, US, becoming the first commercial space launch powered by biofuel, which is non-toxic for the environment as opposed to traditionally used rocket fuels. Biofuels are obtained from biomass, which can be converted directly into liquid fuels that can be used as transportation fuels. The two most common kinds of biofuels in use today are ethanol and biodiesel and they both represent the first generation of biofuel technology. Ethanol, for instance, is renewable and made from different kinds of plant materials. Biodiesel on the other hand is produced by combining alcohol with new and used vegetable oils, animal fats or recycled cooking grease.

7. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Constitution gives the President the power to address either House or a joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament. Article 87 provides two special occasions on which the President addresses a joint sitting. The first is to address the opening session of a new legislature after a general election. The second is to address the first sitting of Parliament each year. When the Constitution came into force, the President was required to address each session of Parliament. So, during the provisional Parliament in 1950, President Prasad gave an address before every session. The First Amendment to the Constitution in 1951 changed this position and made the President's address once a year.

8. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Maharashtra once again at the top of the 18 Large and Mid-sized states (with a population of over one crore each) in the 2nd Edition of the India Justice Report, an initiative of Tata Trusts, followed by Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Punjab, and Kerala.

9. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

According to Economic Survey 2020-21, the Gross Non-Performing Assets ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks decreased from 8.21% at the end of March 2020 to 7.49% at the end of September 2020. This has to be seen in conjunction with the asset classification relief provided to borrowers on account of the pandemic, says the Economic Survey. Further, the Capital to risk-weighted asset ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks increased from 14.7% to 15.8% between March 2020 and September 2020 with improvement in both Public and Private sector banks. The recovery rate for the Scheduled Commercial Banks through Insolvency & Bankruptcy code-IBC (since its inception) has been over 45%. Due to the pandemic, the initiation of the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) was suspended for any default. The suspension along with continued clearance has allowed a small decline in accumulated cases. The financial flows to the real economy remained constrained on account of subdued credit growth by both banks and Non-Banking Financial Corporations. The credit growth of banks slowed down to 6.7% as of January 1, 2021.

10. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Union Transport Minister announced approval of a 'green tax' on vehicles of specified vintage, as a means of dissuading people from using polluting vehicles. What are the major features of the measure?

Additional Road Tax on Older Vehicles: Among the major features of the measure is a 10%-25% additional green tax on the road tax payable by commercial transport vehicles that are older than eight years at the time of fitness certification renewal, and for personal vehicles after 15 years.

Exemptions: The policy provides exemptions for tractors, harvesters and tillers used in farms, hybrid, electric, ethanol, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and compressed natural gas (CNG)-powered vehicles.

Incentivising Mass Transport: The policy proposes lower green tax for public transport vehicles such as buses.

Vehicles in Polluted Cities: A higher additional 50% of road tax is proposed for vehicles in highly polluted cities, as well as differential tax based on fuel and vehicle type, such as diesel.

Older Government Vehicles: Vehicles of government departments and public sector units that are older than 15 years are to be

deregistered and scrapped. Separate Fund: Green tax funds are to be kept in a separate account to help States measure pollution and tackle it The policy is scheduled to come into force on April 1, 2022