



# EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 06-03-2021

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### EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

The Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has released the final rankings of Ease of Living Index (EoLI) 2020. What is it? The Ease of Living Index (EoLI) is an assessment tool that evaluates the quality of life and the impact of various initiatives for urban development. It provides a comprehensive understanding of participating cities across India based on quality of life, economic-ability of a city, and its sustainability and resilience. How were the cities ranked? The analysis categorises them into: Million+ populated cities (those with a population of more than a million). Less than Million populated cities (those with a population of less than a million) along with all the cities under the Smart Cities Program.

2. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has released the Municipal Performance Index 2020. It seeks to simplify and evaluate the complexities in local governance practice and promote the ethos of transparency and accountability. Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2020: The MPI examined the sectoral performance of 111 municipalities (with Delhi being assessed separately for NDMC, and the three Municipal Corporations) across five verticals which comprise of 20 sectors and 100 indicators in all totality. The five verticals under MPI are Services, Finance, Policy, Technology and Governance. Ranking of cities: The assessment framework under MPI 2020 has classified municipalities based on their population- Million+ (municipalities having over a million population) and Less than Million Population. In the Million+ category: Indore has emerged as the highest ranked municipality, followed by Surat and Bhopal. In the Less than Million category: New Delhi Municipal Council has emerged as the leader, followed by Tirupati and Gandhinagar.

3. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

12 Indian Institutions have secured positions in top 100 in the QS Subject Rankings for the year 2021. These are IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Madras, IIT Kharagpur, IISC Bangalore, IIT Guwahati, IIM Bangalore, IIM Ahmedabad, JNU, Anna University, University of Delhi, and O.P Jindal University . Amongst these: IIT Madras has been ranked 30th in the world for Petroleum

Engineering, IIT Bombay has been ranked 41st and IIT Kharagpur has been ranked 44th in the world for Minerals and Mining Engineering, University of Delhi has been ranked 50th in the world for Development Studies About QS World University Rankings by Subject: Compiled annually to help prospective students identify the leading universities in a particular subject. Research citations, along with the results of major global surveys of employers and academics are used to rank universities. The QS World University Rankings by Subject 2021 cover a total of 51 disciplines, grouped into five broad subject areas.

Arts & Humanities.

Engineering and Technology.

Life Sciences & Medicine.

Natural Sciences.

Social Sciences & Management.

What is QS World University rankings?

It is an annual publication of University rankings by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) – A British company specialising in the analysis of higher education institutions around the world. Previously, it was called Times Higher Education – QS world University rankings. The name changed since 2010. It is the only international ranking to have received the approval of International Ranking Expert Group (IREG).

4. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

India has made the following demands wrt INSTC at the 3-day “Maritime India” summit that was conducted virtually: Include Chabahar port in the 13-nation International North South Transport Corridor. Expand INSTC membership by including Afghanistan and Uzbekistan. Need for and significance: Establishing an eastern corridor through Afghanistan would maximise its potential.

About INSTC: It is a 7,200-km-long multi-mode network of ship, rail, and road route for moving freight. Regions involved: India, Iran, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asia and Europe.

Dry runs of two routes were conducted in 2014: First was Mumbai to Baku via Bandar Abbas.

Second was Mumbai to Astrakhan via Bandar Abbas, Tehran and Bandar Anzali. Significance of the corridor: Conceived well before China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), INSTC will not only help cut down on costs and time taken for transfer of goods from India to Russia and Europe via Iran but also provide an alternative connectivity initiative to countries in the Eurasian region. This will also synchronize with the Ashgabat agreement, a Multimodal transport agreement signed by India, Oman, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, for creating an international transport and transit corridor facilitating transportation of goods between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf.

5. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

They are a Persian-speaking ethnic group native to, and primarily residing in, the mountainous region of Hazarajat, in central Afghanistan. Hazaras are considered to be one of the most oppressed groups in Afghanistan.

6. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Assam's Bao-dhaan is being exported to America now. This Iron-rich 'red rice' is grown in the Brahmaputra Valley of Assam without the use of any chemical fertilizer. This variety of rice is referred to as 'Bao-dhaan', which is an integral part of the Assamese food culture.

7. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

(CRCL), New Delhi was recently recognized as a Regional Customs Laboratory (RCL) of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) for Asia-Pacific Region. Central Revenues Control Laboratory (CRCL) CRCL is under the administrative control of Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs. Established in 1939 With its recognition as RCL, CRCL joins a select group of Customs Laboratories in the region like those in Japan & Korea. World Customs Organization (WCO) Established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC). It is an independent intergovernmental body Mission: To enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Customs administrations Headquarter: Brussels, Belgium.

8. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Foundation Stone was laid down for "Development of Maa Bamleshwari Devi Temple, Dongargarh, Chhattisgarh" under PRASHAD Scheme Ministry: Ministry of Tourism. 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive' (PRASHAD)

It is a Central Sector Scheme Launched by: Ministry of Tourism in 2014-15 Objective: Integrated development of identified pilgrimage and heritage destinations Aim: Infrastructure development such as entry points (Road, Rail and Water Transport), last mile connectivity, ATM/ Money exchange, area Lighting and illumination with renewable sources, first aid centers, etc Till now, 13 projects have been successfully completed under PRASHAD Scheme.

9. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is a road construction executive force in India that provides support to and is a part of the Indian Armed Forces. BRO develops and maintains road networks in India's border areas and friendly neighbouring countries. This includes infrastructure operations in 19 states and three union territories (including Andaman and Nicobar Islands) and neighbouring countries such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, Tajikistan and Sri Lanka. In a bid to boost border connectivity, BRO has been entirely brought under the Ministry of Defence in 2015. Earlier it received funds from the Ministry of Surface Transport under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. The BRO consists of Border Roads Wing under the Ministry of Defence and the General Reserve Engineer Force (GREF). Officers from the Border Roads Engineering Service (BRES) and personnel from the General Reserve Engineer Force (GREF) form the parent cadre of the BRO. It is also staffed by officers and troops drawn from the Indian Army's Corps of Engineers on deputation. In order to ensure coordination and expeditious execution of projects, the Government of India in 1960 set up the Border Roads Development Board (BRDB) with the Prime Minister as Chairman of the Board and Defence Minister as Deputy Chairman. Today, the board exercises the financial and other powers of a Department of Government of India and is chaired by the Minister of State for Defence.

10. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

India commemorated 'Chabahar Day' on 4 March on the sidelines of the Second edition of International Maritime Summit-2021. Chabahar is a seaport in south-eastern Iran in the north of the Oman Sea. It is the only oceanic port of Iran. It is the entrance gate to the International North-South Corridor and eastern development route of the country.