



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 23-07-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U), one of the world’s largest affordable housing Missions , has launched two unique initiatives. It has launched Khushiyon Ka Aashiyana- Short Film contest 2021 and Awas Par Samvaad which is a series of 75 seminars and workshops, to take ahead the Prime Minister’s vision of ‘Housing for All’. ‘Awas Par Samvaad’ aims to create awareness and promote discussion, deliberation and dissemination on ‘Housing for All’ among multiple stakeholders belonging to varied streams of learning and practices, e.g. engineering, urban community development, planning, finance, etc. This will be done through 75 nation-wide workshops and seminars.

About Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U) Launch: 25th June 2015 Aim: To provide housing for all in urban areas by year 2022. Implemented by: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

Features:

Addresses Urban housing shortage among the Urban Poor including the Slum Dwellers by ensuring a pucca house to eligible urban poor. It covers the entire urban area or any such authority under State legislation which is entrusted with the functions of urban planning & regulations. All houses under PMAY(U) have basic amenities like toilet, water supply, electricity and kitchen. It promotes women empowerment by providing the ownership of houses in the name of female members or in joint name. Preference is also given to differently abled persons, senior citizens, SCs, STs, OBCs, Minority, single women, transgender and other weaker & vulnerable sections of the society. It is Divided into Four Verticals:

In-situ Rehabilitation of existing slum dwellers using land as a resource through private participation.

Credit Linked Subsidy. Affordable Housing in Partnership. Beneficiary-led individual house construction/enhancement.

2. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Recently, the European Union (EU) released a new climate proposal, the Fit for 55 package. The EU in December 2020 submitted a revised Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement.

What are the Aims of the proposal?

To deliver the NDC and carbon neutrality goal through proposed changes that would ensure a fair, competitive and green transition by 2030 and beyond. To achieve a balance between “regulatory policies” and market-based carbon pricing to avoid the pitfalls of each.

What are the Major Proposals?

Renewable Sources: To increase the binding target of renewable sources to 40% from 32% earlier and improve energy efficiency by 36% (from 32.5% earlier) by 2030. **Vehicular Carbon Emissions:** It must be cut by 55% by 2030 and by 100% by 2035, which means a phaseout of petrol and diesel vehicles by 2035. **Emissions Trading System (ETS):** Creation of ETS for buildings and road transport to become operational from 2026. ETS are market-based instruments that create incentives to reduce emissions where these are most cost-effective. **Social Climate Fund:** To help low-income citizens and small businesses adjust to the new ETS, the EU proposes the creation of a Social Climate Fund **Carbon-Border Adjustment Mechanism:** It will put a price on imports from places that have carbon-intensive production processes. **Enhance Sink Capacity:** It has set a target to enhance the EU’s sink capacity to 310 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent.

3. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Recently, the Defence Minister launched an Artificial Intelligence (AI)– powered grievance management application. Earlier, the Chief Justice of India (CJI) launched an AI-based portal ‘SUPACE’ in the judicial system aimed at assisting judges with legal research.

About the Project

This project is the first of its kind initiative of the Government for using AI, data science and Machine Learning techniques in grievance redressal. It is a citizen centric reform. Developed by: Ministry of Defence (MoD) with the help of IIT-Kanpur. It will automatically handle and analyse the complaints of the people and thus reduce human intervention, save time and bring more transparency in their disposal.

Significance:

This application will help in understanding the nature of complaints, and policy changes which can be introduced to create systemic improvements to address these grievances. The success of this project in MoD will pave the way for extension of this application across other Ministries.

Do you know?

A large number of complaints are received on the CPGRAMS (Centralized Public Grievances Redress and Monitoring System) portal of DARPG (Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances). CPGRAMS enables the citizen to track online the grievance being followed up with the Department concerned and also enables DARPG to monitor the grievance.

4. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The monsoon session of Parliament has begun. The last session of Parliament was curtailed and ended sine die on March 25 and under the Constitutional norms, the next session has to be held within six months. This period ends on September 14.

What the Constitution says?

Article 85 requires that there should not be a gap of more than six months between two sessions of Parliament. Please note, the Constitution does not specify when or for how many days Parliament should meet. The maximum gap between two sessions of Parliament cannot be more than six months. That means the Parliament should meet at least twice a year. A 'session' of Parliament is the period between the first sitting of a House and its prorogation.

Who shall convene a session?

In practice, the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs, comprising senior ministers, decides on the dates for parliament's sitting and it is then conveyed to the president. So, the executive, headed by the prime minister, which steers the business to be taken up by parliament will have the power to advise the president to summon the legislature.

5. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

China has reported the first human infection case with Monkey B virus (BV).

About Monkey B Virus:

First identified in 1932, the virus is learnt to have infected only 50 people till 2020, of which 21 died. It is an alphaherpesvirus enzootic in macaques of the genus *Macaca*. B virus is the only identified old-world-monkey herpesvirus that displays severe pathogenicity in humans. Currently, there are no vaccines that can protect against B virus infection. Transmission: The infection can be transmitted via direct contact and exchange of bodily secretions of monkeys.

Symptoms:

Initially there are flu-like symptoms such as fever and chills, muscle ache, fatigue and headache.

Following this, an infected person may develop small blisters in the wound or area on the body that came in contact with the monkey. Some other symptoms of the infection include shortness of breath, nausea and vomiting, abdominal pain and hiccups. As the disease progresses, the virus spreads to and causes inflammation (swelling) of the brain and spinal cord, leading to neurologic and inflammatory symptoms such as pain, numbness, itching near the wound site; issues with muscle coordination.

6. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The bill will be introduced in the parliament by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF). The bill will establish the commission and replace an ordinance. The Bill has taken into consideration the concerns of the farmers following several rounds of negotiations, after they had raised concerns of stiff penalties and possible jail terms for stubble burning.

Changes made:

The government has decriminalised the act of stubble burning and withdrawn the clause for possible jail time. However, environmental compensation fees are levied on those who are found to be engaged in stubble burning, including farmers. About the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM):

The Commission was first formed by an ordinance in October 2020. The erstwhile Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority, or EPCA had been dissolved to make way for the Commission.

The Commission will be a statutory authority. The Commission will supersede bodies such as the central and state pollution control boards of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, UP and Rajasthan.

Composition:

Chairperson: To be chaired by a government official of the rank of Secretary or Chief Secretary. The chairperson will hold the post for three years or until s/he attains the age of 70 years. It will have members from several Ministries as well as representatives from the stakeholder States. It will have experts from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Civil Society.

Powers and functions:

It will have the powers to issue directions to these state governments on issues pertaining to air pollution. It will entertain complaints as it deems necessary for the purpose of protecting and improving the quality of the air in the NCR and adjoining areas. It will also lay down parameters for control of air pollution.

It will also be in charge of identifying violators, monitoring factories and industries and any other polluting unit in the region, and will have the powers to shut down such units. It will also have the powers to overrule directives issued by the state governments in the region, that may be in violation of pollution norms.

7. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Farmers in Rajasthan will get a monthly grant of Rs 1,000 under the 'Kisan Mitra Urja Yojna' which was launched by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot in the state.

8. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

The United States, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan have agreed in principle to establish a new quadrilateral diplomatic platform, focused on enhancing regional connectivity.

9. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Africa has become the first continent in the world to complete the collection of accurate, comprehensive and harmonised digital land use and land use change data under the Africa Open DEAL initiative. DEAL stands for Data for the Environment, Agriculture and Land Initiative. The data collection and analysis initiative is led by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the African Union Commission (AUC). The data was analysed to highlight land use change over the past 20 years and the potential for restoration at the national level for every country in the African continent.

10. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

India's forex (Foreign Exchange) reserves stood at \$608.99 billion as on June 25, 2021. With this, India has emerged as the fifth largest foreign exchange reserves holder in the world after China, Japan, Switzerland and Russia. In 2020-21, India's balance of payments recorded surplus in both current account and capital account which contributed to the increase in foreign exchange reserves during the year. Besides exports and imports of goods and services, the overall stability of the external sector depends on other components of balance of payments including remittances (transfers), income in the current account, the size of net capital flows and external debt. India is comfortable in most of these external sector vulnerability indicators.

What is Foreign Exchange Reserves?

These are assets held on reserve by a central bank in foreign currencies, which can include bonds, treasury bills and other government securities. Most foreign exchange reserves are held in U.S. dollars.

These assets are held to ensure that the central bank has backup funds if the national currency rapidly devalues or becomes altogether insolvent. It is an important component of the Balance of Payment and an essential element in the analysis of an economy's external position. India's forex reserves It includes: Foreign Currency Assets(FCA), Gold reserves, Special Drawing Rights and Reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF)