



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 25-08-2021

EXPLANATION

1. A)d,

Explanation: Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are organic man-made compounds that contain fluorine and hydrogen atoms, used primarily for cooling & refrigeration. HFCs were developed to replace stratospheric ozone-depleting substances like chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), halons, methyl bromide, carbon tetrachloride, hydrobromofluorocarbons, chlorobromomethane, and methyl chloroform. However, HFCs too are powerful greenhouse gases that can survive in the atmosphere for 15-29 years, causing pollution and climate change. Currently, HFCs represent only around 1% of total greenhouse gases, yet, their impact on global warming can be hundreds to thousands of times greater than that of carbon dioxide per unit of mass. Further, what's more concerning is the fact that it significantly depletes the ozone layer.

2. A)d,

National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has commissioned the largest floating solar PV project of 25 Megawatt on the reservoir of its Simhadri thermal station in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The floating solar installation has a unique anchoring design which is spread over 75 acres. This floating solar project has the potential to generate electricity from more than one lakh solar PV modules.

3. A) b

The Fishing Cat or *Prionailurus Viverrinus* is a medium-sized cat endemic to South and Southeast Asia. It is mostly found in wetlands and is among the 15 felids (cat) species that inhabit India. Since 2016, the State animal of West Bengal, the fishing cat has been listed as 'vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List. Less than 10,000 fishing cats are left in the world.

These are threatened by the destruction of wetlands and have declined severely over the last decade. Fishing cat preys mainly on fish, but also consume mollusks, arthropods, amphibians, reptiles, birds, small mammals, and deer fawns.

First-ever photographic evidence of a Fishing Cat, an endangered animal in India, was confirmed in the Panna Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh. The endangered animal was first spotted here two years ago in 2019. The Reserve authorities confirmed the animal's existence after two years of extensive studies.

4. A)c,

The government has launched a new geospatial planning portal, 'Yuktdhara', which will help in facilitating new MGNREGA assets using remote sensing and geographic information system-based data.

The portal will serve as a repository of geotags created under various national rural development programmes.

This platform will serve as a repository of assets (geotags) created under various national rural development programmes i.e. MGNREGA, Integrated Watershed Management Programme, Per Drop

More Crop programme and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, along with field photographs. The portal was launched by Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh.

5. A) c

Categorisation of UCBs:

Based on the cooperativeness of the banks, availability of capital and other factors, UCBs may be **categorised into four tiers for regulatory purposes: Tier 1** with all unit UCBs and salary earner's UCBs (irrespective of deposit size) and all other UCBs having **deposits up to Rs 100 crore. Tier 2** with UCBs of **deposits between Rs 100 crore and Rs 1,000 crore. Tier 3** with UCBs of **deposits between Rs 1,000 crore and Rs 10,000 crore. Tier 4** with UCBs of **deposits more than Rs 10,000 crore.** The committee has proposed **setting up an Umbrella Organisation (UO) to oversee co-operative banks** and suggested that they should be allowed to open more branches if they meet all regulatory requirements. The **UO should be financially strong** and be well governed by a professional board and senior management, both of which are fit and proper.

6. A)b,

India and Russia had signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) in February 2019 for production of AK 203 assault rifles. For this, a Joint venture was formed between Ordnance Factories Board (OFB) on the Indian side, and Rosonboron Exports and Concern Kalashnikov on the Russian side. This led to the establishment of a rifle-manufacturing factory 'Indo-Russia Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL)' in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh. The factory (IRRPL) owns license to produce these very 7.5 lakh AK-203 rifles, 70,000 of which are now being bought off the shelf by India.

7. A)c

Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana is a National Mission for financial inclusion to ensure access to financial services, basic savings & deposit accounts, remittance, credit, insurance and pension in an affordable manner. Under the scheme, a basic savings bank deposit (BSBD) account can be opened in any bank branch or Business Correspondent (Bank Mitra) outlet, by persons not having any other account.

Large-scale financial inclusion has opened up new avenues of social security for the poorest of the poor. It has also offered a variety of benefits.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana, the total number of beneficiaries at rural/semi-urban centre bank branches is 28.63 crore. The number Of Rural-Urban female beneficiaries stands at 23.80 crore while the total number of beneficiaries is 42.97 crore. Till now, the deposits that have been issued in Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan accounts is 1,47,120.09 crores. Also, the total number of Rupay Debit Cards that have been issued to beneficiaries is 31.21 crores.

8. A)a

Back in 2016, reports first emerged of US diplomats and other employees of the government falling ill in Havana, the capital of Cuba. The patients said they heard strange sounds and experienced odd physical sensations in their hotel rooms or homes. They said they had symptoms of nausea, severe headaches, fatigue, dizziness, sleep problems and hearing loss. This mysterious illness came to be called the "Havana Syndrome".

The report concluded that "directed pulsed radio frequency (RF) energy appears to be the most plausible mechanism in explaining these cases among those that the committee considered".

9. A)c

The government will launch the e-Shram portal, a database of unorganised sector workers, on August 26. The government aims to register 38 crore unorganised workers, such as construction labourers, migrant workforce, street vendors and domestic workers, among others. The workers will be issued an e-Shram card containing a 12 digit unique number, which, going ahead, will help in including them in social security schemes.

10. A)d

Saroop is a physical copy of Sri Guru Granth Sahib, also called Bir in Punjabi. Every Bir has 1,430 pages, which are referred to as Ang. The verses on every page remain the same. The Sikhs consider the saroop of Guru Granth Sahib a living guru and treat it with utmost respect. They believe that all the 10 Gurus were the same spirit in different bodies, and the Guru Granth Sahib is their eternal physical and spiritual form. It was the fifth Sikh master, Guru Arjan Dev, who compiled the first Bir of the Guru Granth Sahib in 1604, and installed it at the Golden Temple in Amritsar. Later, the tenth Sikh master, Guru Gobind Singh, added verses penned by the ninth master, his father Guru Tegh Bahadur, and compiled the Bir for the second and last time. It was in 1708 that Guru Gobind Singh declared the Guru Granth Sahib the living Guru of the Sikhs.