



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 26-08-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (d),

NITI Aayog and the World Resources Institute (WRI), India, jointly launched the 'Forum for Decarbonizing Transport' in India as part of the NDC-Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA) on Monday (23 August).

Objectives:

– A need is felt to create a favorable ecosystem for different stakeholders to leverage and streamline EVs across the country. Thus, the initiative fulfils the objective of providing a common platform to multiple stakeholders. – The platform will help in initiating dialogues for the development of uniform policies and will help to achieve specific results in reducing emissions from the transport sector. -The project aims at bringing down the peak level of GHG emissions (transport sector) in Asia (in line with a well below 2-degree pathway) that results in problems like congestion and air pollution. – The tedious efforts of the central government to decarbonize the transport sector aims to make the Indian transport sector clean & energy-efficient. – It further aims to accelerate electric mobility in India.

NDC-Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA): The NDC Transport Initiative for Asia (TIA 2020-2023) is a joint programme of seven organizations that will engage China, India, and Vietnam in promoting a comprehensive approach to decarbonizing transport in their respective countries. The project is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) support the initiative on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Bundestag. NITI Aayog is the implementing partner for the India component of the project.

International Climate Initiative (IKI): The International Climate Initiative (IKI) is an imperative and powerful instrument of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) for the international financing of climate change mitigation and biodiversity. It operates within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), financing climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation in developing, emerging and transitioning countries. Since 2008 to 2019, IKI approved more than 730 climate and biodiversity projects with a total funding volume of EUR 3.9 billion in more than 60 countries.

2. Ans) (b),

The COVID-19 pandemic has pushed an estimated 75 million to 80 million more people in

developing Asia into extreme poverty as of last year compared with what would have happened without COVID-19, according to a new report by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The 'Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2021' says the pandemic is threatening Asia and the Pacific's progress toward critical targets under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Progress has also stalled in areas such as hunger, health and education where earlier achievements across the region had been significant.

3. Ans) (b),

In 1999, the UNSC Committee was established pursuant to Resolution 1267 (1999), which imposed a limited air embargo and asset freeze on the Taliban. Over time, measures became a targeted asset freeze, travel ban and arms embargo against designated individuals and entities. In June 2011, after the adoption of resolution 1988 (2011), the Committee split into two. The 1267 Committee was henceforth known as the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, mandated to oversee implementation of the measures against individuals and entities associated with Al-Qaida. A separate Committee was established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) to oversee implementation of the measures against individuals and entities associated with the Taliban.

4. Ans) (b)

Sugar Pricing Policy:

Prices of sugar are market driven & depend on demand & supply of sugar. However, with a view to protect the interests of farmers, the concept of Minimum Selling Price (MSP) of sugar was introduced in 2018 so that industry may get at least the minimum cost of production of sugar, so as to enable them to clear cane price dues of farmers. In exercise of the powers conferred under the essential commodities act, 1955, Government has notified Sugar Price (Control) Order, 2018. Under the provisions of said order, the Government will fix the Minimum Selling Price (MSP). MSP of sugar has been fixed taking into account the components of Fair & Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane and minimum conversion cost of the most efficient mills. Also, please note that the State Advised Prices (SAP) are announced by key sugarcane producing states which are generally higher than FRP.

5. Ans) (c)

Google has launched the global 'Be Internet Awesome' program for kids in India, wherein it will partner with Indian comic book publisher Amar Chitra Katha to offer Internet safety lessons through popular comic book characters across eight Indian languages.

6. Ans) (c)

Navies of the four member nations of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, or the Quad — India, the

United States, Japan, and Australia — are participating in the 25th edition of the Malabar exercise, which began off the coast of Guam in the Pacific Ocean on August 26.

7. Ans) (b)

Kilauea is an active shield volcano in the Hawaiian Islands. Historically, it is the most active of the five volcanoes that together form the Big Island of Hawai'i. Scientists have warned that the mountain could once again disgorge lava. Kilauea has erupted 34 times since 1952.

8. Ans) (c)

Bonn was a closed-door negotiation; participants were isolated, outside contact was limited during the negotiations, and there was no publicity until after the agreement was signed. The existing nominal head of state (Rabbani) was sidelined and did not participate, and the Taliban were completely excluded from the Bonn negotiations. The United Nations and several other international actors played major roles in pushing the negotiations forward, and the Bonn Agreement was blessed by the U.N. Security Council.

9. Ans) (c)

Key changes:

1. Digital sky platform shall be developed as a business-friendly single-window online system.
2. No flight permission required upto 400 feet in green zones and upto 200 feet in the area between 8 and 12 km from the airport perimeter.
3. No pilot licence required for micro drones (for non-commercial use), nano drone and for R&D organisations.
4. No restriction on drone operations by foreign-owned companies registered in India.
5. Import of drones and drone components to be regulated by DGFT.
6. No security clearance required before any registration or licence issuance.
7. No requirement of certificate of airworthiness, unique identification number, prior permission and remote pilot licence for R&D entities.
8. Coverage of drones under Drone Rules, 2021 increased from 300 kg to 500 kg. This will cover drone taxis also.
9. Issuance of Certificate of Airworthiness delegated to Quality Council of India and certification entities authorised by it.
10. Manufacturer may generate their drone's unique identification number on the digital sky platform through the self-certification route.
11. Maximum penalty under Drone Rules, 2021 reduced to INR 1 lakh. This shall, however, not apply to penalties in respect of violation of other laws.
12. Drone corridors will be developed for cargo deliveries.

13. Drone promotion council to be set up to facilitate a business-friendly regulatory regime.

10. Ans) (b)

The difference between LiDAR (Light Detection And Ranging) and RADAR (Radio Detection And Ranging) is their wavelength. ... The RADAR system works in much the same way as LiDAR, with the big difference that it uses radio waves instead of laser or LED light.