



+ EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 28-06-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Union Minister of Minority Affairs, Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi launched a nationwide awareness campaign titled “JaanHaiToJahaanHai” . The campaign was launched from the Primary Health Centre, Chamraua in Rampur, Uttar Pradesh.

2. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

amilnadu Chief Minister M.K.Stalin inaugurated Minnagam, a consumer grievance redressal centre in Chennai. The State Government said that consumers of electricity in the State can report their grievances to the Centre through mobile phone.

3. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Recently, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee has recommended that the Australia’s Great Barrier Reef should be added to a list of “in danger” World Heritage Sites.

It was recommended to add to the list because of the impact of climate change.

Despite Reef 2050, the coral reef ecosystem has suffered three major bleaching events since 2015 due to severe marine heatwaves. The Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan is the Australian and Queensland Government’s framework for protecting and managing the Great Barrier Reef by 2050.

Australia, which is one of the world’s largest carbon emitters per capita, has remained reluctant to commit to stronger climate action and has pointed out jobs as a major reason to continue fossil fuel industries.

It has not updated its climate goals since 2015.

About Great Barrier Reef

It is the world’s most extensive and spectacular coral reef ecosystem composed of over 2,900 individual reefs and 900 islands. The reef is located in the Coral Sea (North-East Coast), off the coast of Queensland, Australia. It can be seen from outer space and is the world’s biggest single structure made by living organisms. This reef structure is composed of and built by billions of tiny organisms, known as coral polyps. Polyps are tiny, soft-bodied organisms. At their base is a hard, protective limestone skeleton called a calicle, which forms the structure of coral reefs. These polyps have microscopic algae

called zooxanthellae living within their tissues. The corals and algae have a mutualistic (symbiotic) relationship. It was selected as a World Heritage Site in 1981.

4. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Recently, the Ramgarh Vishdhari wildlife sanctuary received a nod from the National Tiger Conservation Authority's (NTCA) technical committee to become the 4th Tiger reserve of Rajasthan.

Other Three Tiger Reserves of Rajasthan:

Ranthambore Tiger Reserve (RTR) in Sawai Madhopur Sariska Tiger Reserve (STR) in Alwar Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve (MHTR) in Kota.

5. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Protection Status of Tiger Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I IUCN Red List: Endangered. CITES: Appendix I. The NTCA was launched in 2005, following the recommendations of the Tiger Task Force. It is a statutory body of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change., with an overarching supervisory/coordination role, performing functions as provided in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

6. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

India's direct tax collections in the first two and a half months (April – June) of 2021-22 stand at nearly Rs. 1.86 lakh crore, which is double the collections over the same period of last year that was affected by the national lockdown. It includes Corporation Tax collections and Personal Income Tax inflows. The increase in the direct tax collections is mainly attributed to healthy exports and a continuation of various industrial and construction activities. It is expected that GDP will record a double-digit expansion in Quarter 1 of 2021-22. About Direct Tax A direct tax is a tax that a person or organization pays directly to the entity that imposed it. An individual taxpayer, for example, pays direct taxes to the government for various purposes, including income tax, real property tax, personal property tax, or taxes on assets. Government Initiatives to Improve Direct Taxes The Finance Act, 2020 has provided an option to individuals and co-operatives for paying income-tax at concessional rates if they do not avail specified exemption and incentive for Personal Income Tax Vivad se Vishwas: Under Vivad se Vishwas, declarations for settling pending tax disputes are currently being filed. This will benefit the Government by generating timely revenue and also to the taxpayers by bringing down mounting litigation costs. For widening the tax base, several new transactions were brought into the ambit of Tax Deduction at Source (TDS) and Tax Collection at Source (TCS). These transactions include huge cash withdrawal, foreign

remittance, purchase of luxury cars, e-commerce participants, sale of goods, acquisition of immovable property, etc. 'Transparent Taxation – Honoring The Honest' platform: It is aimed at bringing transparency in income tax systems and empowering taxpayers.

7. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has made use of drones mandatory for video recording of the national highway projects during different stages of development, construction, operation and maintenance. These videos will be saved on NHAI's portal "Data Lake" to assess the progress made on the projects.

Significance

Enhance transparency and uniformity. The videos can be used during the physical inspection of the projects. They can also be used as evidence during the dispute resolution process before Arbitral Tribunals and Courts. The mandatory deployment of Network Survey Vehicle (NSV) to carry out road condition surveys on the National Highways will enhance the overall quality of the highways.

About National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) NHAI was set up under NHAI Act, 1988. It has been entrusted with the National Highways Development Project (NHDP), along with other minor projects for development, maintenance and management. NHAI maintains the National Highways network to global standards and in a cost effective manner NHAI's Portal "Data Lake" NHAI has gone 'Fully Digital' with the launch of Data Lake and Project Management Software. It is cloud based and Artificial Intelligence powered Big Data Analytics platform All project documentation, contractual decisions and approvals are now done through the portal only.

8. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Health Ministry has categorised Delta Plus variant of coronavirus as a 'variant of concern'. It has been detected in many states.

What is a 'variant of concern'?

It is one for which there is evidence of:

An increase in transmissibility. More severe diseases that require hospitalisation or death. A significant reduction in neutralisation by antibodies generated during previous infection or vaccination. Reduced effectiveness of treatments or vaccines, or diagnostic detection failures. In the case of the Delta Plus variant, the Health Ministry identified three characteristics — increased transmissibility; stronger binding in receptors of lung cells; and potential reduction in monoclonal antibody response.

How do variants of a virus emerge and why?

Variants of a virus have one or more mutations that differentiate it from the other variants that are in circulation. Essentially, the goal of the virus is to reach a stage where it can cohabit with humans because it needs a host to survive. Errors in the viral RNA are called mutations, and viruses with these mutations are called variants. Variants could differ by a single or many mutations.

What is a mutation?

A mutation means a change in the genetic sequence of the virus. In the case of SARS-CoV-2, which is a Ribonucleic acid (RNA) virus, a mutation means a change in the sequence in which its molecules are arranged. A mutation in an RNA virus often happens when the virus makes a mistake while it is making copies of itself.

Variants of Concern so far:

‘Variants of concern’ include B.1.1.7 or Alpha first identified in the UK, B.1.351 or Beta first identified in South Africa, and B.1.427 or Epsilon first identified in the US. Earlier, the World Health Organisation (WHO) had identified the Delta variant or B.1.617.2, first found in India, as a ‘variant of concern’.

How can a variant of concern be controlled?

They require appropriate health actions like increased testing or “research to determine the effectiveness of vaccines and treatments against the variant”. Based on the characteristics of the variant, additional considerations may include the development of new diagnostics or the modification of vaccines or treatments.

9. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Bhutan’s Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) programme launched in partnership with India. This programme is expected to be of about 24 months’ duration. The focus of the programme will be in the area of International Taxation and Transfer Pricing. Benefits of the programme: Through this India in collaboration with the UNDP and the TIWB Secretariat aims to aid Bhutan in strengthening its tax administration by transferring technical know-how and skills to its tax auditors, and through sharing of best audit practices.

About TIWB Programme:

It is a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The objective of the TIWB Initiative is to enable sharing of tax audit knowledge and skills with tax administrations in developing countries through a targeted, real time “learning by doing” approach. TIWB is focused on promoting hands-on assistance by sending Experts to build audit and audit-related skills pertaining to specific international tax matters and the development of general audit skills within developing tax administrations.

10. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

The Suez Canal is an artificial sea-level waterway running north to south across the Isthmus of Suez in Egypt, to connect the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea. The canal separates the African continent from Asia. It provides the shortest maritime route between Europe and the lands lying around the Indian and western Pacific oceans. It is one of the world's most heavily used shipping lanes, carrying over 12% of world trade by volume.