



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 12-09-2020

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

The Department of Posts has launched a scheme called Five Star Villages, to ensure universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas of the country. All postal products and services will be made available and marketed and publicized at village level, under the Five Star Villages scheme. Branch offices will function as one-stop shop to cater all post office - related needs of villagers.

The schemes covered under the Five Star scheme include:

Savings Bank accounts, Recurrent Deposit Accounts, NSC / KVP certificates, Sukanya Samridhi Accounts/ PPF Accounts, Funded Post Office Savings Account linked India Post Payments Bank Accounts, Postal Life Insurance Policy/Rural Postal Life Insurance Policy and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana Account / Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana Account. If a village attains universal coverage for four schemes from the above list, then that village gets four-star status; if a village completes three schemes, then that village get three-star status and so on. The scheme is being launched on pilot basis in Maharashtra; based on the experience here, it will be implemented nation-wide. The entire state of Maharashtra will be covered under the scheme. The scheme will be implemented by a team of five Gramin Dak Sevaks who will be assigned a village for marketing of all products, savings and insurance schemes of the Department of Posts.

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

Union Minister for Shipping launched 'SAROD-Ports' (Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes - Ports) through virtual ceremony today in New Delhi. SAROD-Ports is established under Societies Registration Act, 1860 with the following objectives:

Affordable and timely resolution of disputes in fair manner Enrichment of Dispute Resolution Mechanism with the panel of technical experts as arbitrators. SAROD-Ports consists members from Indian Ports Association (IPA) and Indian Private Ports and Terminals Association (IPTTA). SAROD-Ports will advise and assist in settlement of disputes through arbitrations in the maritime sector, including ports and shipping sector in Major Port Trusts, Non-major Ports, including private ports, jetties, terminals and harbours. 'SAROD-Ports' is similar to provision available in Highway Sector in the form of SAROD-Roads constituted by NHAI. In January, 2018, the Union Cabinet approved amendments in the Model Concession Agreement (MCA) which envisaged constitution of SAROD-PORTS as dispute resolution

mechanism for PPP Projects in the Major Ports.

3. Ans) (b)

Explanation :

The WWF's Living Planet Report 2020 has found that there has been a reduction of 68 % in the global wildlife population between 1970 and 2016.75 % of the Earth's ice-free land surface has already been significantly altered, most of the oceans are polluted, and more than 85% of the area of wetlands has been lost during this period. The most important direct driver of biodiversity loss in the last several decades has been land-use change, primarily the conversion of pristine habitats into agricultural systems, while much of the oceans have been overfished. The highest biodiversity loss due to land use change globally has been found in Europe and Central Asia at 57.9 %, then in North America at 52.5 %, Latin America and Caribbean at 51.2 %, Africa at 45.9 % and then Asia at 43 %. The largest wildlife population loss, according to the Living Planet Index, has been in Latin America at an alarming 94 %. One of the most threatened biodiversity globally has been freshwater biodiversity, which has been declining faster than that in oceans or forests. Almost 90 % of global wetlands have been lost since 1700 and global mapping has recently revealed the extent to which humans have altered millions of kilometres of rivers. India, a "megadiverse country" with over 45,000 species of plants in only 2.4 % of the world's land area, has already lost six plant species to extinction, according to the IUCN Red List.

4. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

An American commercial cargo spacecraft bound for the International Space Station has been named after fallen NASA astronaut Kalpana Chawla, the first India-born woman to enter space, for her key contributions to human spaceflight. Northrop Grumman, an American global aerospace and defence technology company, announced that its next Cygnus capsule will be named the "S.S. Kalpana Chawla", in memory of the mission specialist who died with her six crewmates aboard the space shuttle Columbia in 2003. Northrop Grumman has named the NG-14 Cygnus spacecraft after former astronaut Kalpana Chawla. It is the company's tradition to name each Cygnus after an individual who has played a pivotal role in human spaceflight. Kalpana Chawla was born in Karnal, Haryana on March 17, 1962. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in aeronautical engineering from Punjab Engineering College in India in 1982. Chawla then moved to the United States to pursue her graduate education; in 1984 she received a Master's degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Texas, and a Ph.D. in aerospace engineering from the University of Colorado in 1988. After becoming a naturalised US citizen in April 1991, Chawla applied for the NASA astronauts corps.

5. Ans) (b)

Explanation :

In a first since 1984, the Union Home Ministry has granted Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration to Gurdwara Harmandir Sahib, or the Golden Temple, in Amritsar, enabling it to receive foreign donations. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) granted registration to the Sachkhand Sri Harmandir Sahib, Sri Darbar Sahib, Punjab. This association had applied for registration under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010 on 27.05.2020. The registration shall remain valid for 5 years from the date of issue. Before granting registration to Sachkhand Sri Harmandir Sahib, Sri Darbar Sahib, Punjab, the application of this association was examined in accordance with the provisions laid down in FCRA, 2010 and the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Rules (FCRR), 2011. Any association, non-government organisation (NGO) or registered society requires FCRA registration to receive foreign donations for specified purposes. The association named Sachkhand Sri Harmandir Sahib, Sri Darbar Sahib, popularly known as Golden Temple based at Amritsar, Punjab was created in 1925 under the Sikh Gurdwara Act, 1925 with objectives to offer free Langar to public/devotees round the clock, financial help to poor and needy etc. The gurdwara is currently administered by the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC), controlled by the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), one of the oldest allies of the BJP. The Foreign Contribution Regulations Act or FCRA is a law enacted by Parliament to regulate foreign contribution (especially monetary donation) provided by certain individuals or associations to NGOs and others within India. The act, in its consolidating form, was originally passed in 1976 and majorly modified in 2010.

6. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs has launched the Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF) 2.0, along with the 'Streets for People Challenge'. The objective of CSCAF is to provide a clear roadmap for cities towards combating Climate Change while planning and implementing their actions, including investments. CSCAF initiative intends to inculcate a climate-sensitive approach to urban planning and development in India. The framework has 28 indicators across five categories namely; (i) Energy and Green Buildings, (ii) Urban Planning, Green Cover & Biodiversity, (iii) Mobility and Air Quality, (iv) Water Management and (v) Waste Management. The Climate Centre for Cities under National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) is supporting MoHUA in implementation of CSCAF. Streets for People Challenge: The Streets for People Challenge is the response to the need for making the cities more walkable and pedestrian friendly.

7. Ans) (c)

Explanation

Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) scheme was launched by the

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Recently the Ministry handed over the 100th Letter of Intent (LOI) to the Compressed Biogas (CBG) Entrepreneur (producer) under the Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) scheme. SATAT has following four objectives: Utilising more than 62 million metric tonnes of waste generated every year in India, Cutting down import dependence, Supplementing job creation in the country, and Reducing vehicular emissions and pollution from burning of agricultural/organic waste.

8. Ans) (c)

Explanation

Ozone (composed of three atoms of oxygen) occurs both in the Earth's upper atmosphere (stratosphere) and at ground level (troposphere). It can be good or bad, depending on where it is found. Good Ozone: Ozone occurs naturally in the Earth's upper atmosphere (Stratosphere) where it forms a protective layer that shields us from the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays. Ozone depleting gases like chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), HCFCs, halons, destroy this protective shield and causes hole in the ozone. India had adopted the Kigali Amendment (aims to phase-down hydrofluorocarbons). Bad Ozone: In the Earth's lower atmosphere (troposphere) near ground level, ozone is formed when pollutants emitted by cars, power plants, industrial boilers, refineries, chemical plants, and other sources react chemically in the presence of sunlight.

9. Ans) (a)

Explanation

The Global Innovation Index 2020 was released annually by Cornell University, INSEAD and the WIPO. It provides detailed metrics about the innovation performance of 131 countries and economies around the world. The index assesses innovation in terms of political environment, education, infrastructure and business sophistication. India is at the 48th position in the list of top 50 innovative countries in GII 2020. India has become the third most innovative lower-middle-income economy in the world.

India ranks in the top 15 in indicators such as the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) services exports, government online services, graduates in science and engineering, and Research and Development-intensive global companies. India improved the most in three pillars: Institutions (61st), business sophistication (55th), and creative outputs (64th). India occupied the 52nd position in 2019 rankings. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

10. Ans) (b)

Explanation

The Department of Posts (Ministry of Communications) has launched Five Star Villages scheme. The scheme seeks to bridge the gaps in public awareness and reach of postal products and services, especially in interior villages. The scheme also envisages to ensure universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas of the country. There are three components of the scheme:

Product and Service Availability,

Product and Service Publicity

Product and Service Marketing