



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 14-08-2020

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar has announced that India will fund the implementation of Greater Male Connectivity Project through a 400 million dollar Line of Credit and 100 million dollar grant. This 6.7 kilometre bridge project connecting Male with Gulhifalhu Port and Thilafushi industrial zone will help revitalise and transform Maldivian economy. A regular cargo ferry service between India and Maldives will be started to boost trade and commerce. India is also starting an air travel bubble with Maldives to sustain and promote the dynamic people-to-people ties between the two countries.

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

Prime Minister Modi launched a platform for “Transparent Taxation - Honouring the Honest”. The platform has major reforms like Faceless Assessment, Faceless Appeal and Taxpayers Charter. Faceless Assessment and Taxpayers Charter came into force with immediate effect while the facility of faceless appeal will be available for citizens across the country from 25th September i.e. Deen Dayal Upadhyay's birth anniversary. The new platform apart from being faceless is also aimed at boosting the confidence of the taxpayer and making him/her fearless. The launch of Taxpayers Charter is a significant step where the taxpayer is now assured of fair, courteous and rational behavior.

3. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

Indian Railways released a draft key performance indicators for private operators. Private Railway operators have to pay penalties for misreporting their revenue or in case of train cancellations for reasons attributable to them. Private entities have to pay heavy penalties in case the trains they operate are delayed or reach the destination early. Private train operators have to maintain 95 per cent punctuality through the year. If the arrival of a train at its destination is delayed by over 15 minutes it will be deemed to have lost punctuality. The haulage charge, the fee that private operators will pay to use Railways' infrastructure will be 512 rupees per kilometre. Hence both statements are correct.

4. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

An Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) for the Indian Coast Guard was launched and re-christened as Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Sarthak'. Sarthak is the 4th in the series of five OPVs deployed by the Coast Guard to enhance maritime security. It has been designed and built indigenously by Goa Shipyard Limited. The Ship is fitted with state-of-the-art Navigation and Communication equipment, sensor and machinery. The ship is designed to embark and carry a twin-engine helicopter, four high speed boats and one inflatable boat for swift boarding and Search & Rescue operations.

5. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO). The NIIO puts in place dedicated structures for the end users to interact with academia and industry towards fostering innovation and indigenisation for self-reliance in defence. The Draft Defence Acquisition Policy 2020 (DAP 20) rolled out by the Defence Ministry last month envisaged establishment of Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation by the Service Headquarters.

The NIIO is a three-tiered organisation.

Naval Technology Acceleration Council (N-TAC) will bring together the twin aspects of innovation and indigenisation and provide apex level directives.

A working group under the N-TAC will implement the projects.

A Technology Development Acceleration Cell (TDAC) has also been created for induction of emerging disruptive technology in an accelerated time frame.

A compendium of Indian Navy's Indigenisation perspective plans titled 'SWAVLAMBAN' was also released on the occasion.

6. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) ordered investigation into the Air India Express aircraft crash at Kozhikode airport. The Probe of the aircraft crash will be done by a five member team headed by Captain S S Chahar. Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau, India (AAIB, India) is an attached office of the Govt of India, Ministry of Civil Aviation. AAIB is responsible for classification of "Safety Occurrences" involving aircraft operating in the Indian Airspace into Accidents, Serious Incidents and Incidents. The agency was established in 2011. The Aircraft (Investigation of Accidents and Incidents) Rules, 2012 governs its functioning.

7. Ans) (c)

Explanation

Recently, the Prime Minister of India launched the 'Transparent Taxation - Honoring The Honest'

platform to honour the honest taxpayers of the country.

The Transparent Taxation Platform aimed at bringing transparency in income tax systems and empowering taxpayers.

The main features of the platform are faceless assessment, faceless appeal and taxpayer charter.

It aims to eliminate the interface between the taxpayer and the income tax department. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

There will be no need for the taxpayer to visit the income tax office or the officer.

The selection of a taxpayer is possible through systems using analytics and Artificial Intelligence.

8. Ans) (a)

Explanation

The hornbills (Bucerotidae) are a family of birds found in tropical and subtropical Africa and Asia.

India is home to nine species of hornbills. The northeastern region has the highest diversity of hornbill species within India.

The great hornbill is the state bird of Arunachal Pradesh and Kerala.

They are the cultural symbols of some ethnic communities in the northeast, specifically the Nyishi of Arunachal Pradesh.

They are referred to as 'forest engineers' or 'farmers of forest' for playing a key role in dispersing seeds of tropical trees and indicate the prosperity and balance of the forest they build nests in. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

The Hornbill festival celebrated in Nagaland is named after the bird – Hornbill which is the most revered and admired bird for the Nagas.

Currently, 26 out of the 62 species (40%) of hornbills are Globally Threatened or Near Threatened with extinction, with all other species listed as Least Concern, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.

The great hornbill is evaluated as vulnerable.

It is protected at the highest level under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

9. Ans) (c)

Explanation

Ceres is the only dwarf planet located in the inner solar system (includes planets Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars). Scientists classified it as a dwarf planet in 2006. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

It does not have any moon or rings.

Dawn (2007-18) was a mission to two of the most massive bodies in the main asteroid belt - Vesta and Ceres.

10. Ans) (c)

Explanation

As the elephants, in India, have played a significant role in manual labor, war, royal iconography, and the tourism industry. Also, due to their cultural linkages with some of the major religions in India. The elephant has been declared as a national heritage animal of India in 2010. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

There are two main species of elephants i.e African Elephant (IUCN status: Vulnerable) and Asian Elephant (IUCN status: Endangered).

The Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) programme, launched in 2003, is an international collaboration that tracks trends in information related to the illegal killing of elephants from across Africa and Asia, to monitor effectiveness of field conservation efforts.