



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 15-12-2020

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

India has pledged a sum of USD 1 million to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) towards the global agency's scientific research budget, which will allow WADA to develop innovative anti-doping testing and detection methods. Hence Statement 1 is correct: The World Anti-Doping Agency is a foundation initiated by the International Olympic Committee to promote, coordinate and monitor the fight against drugs in sports. The agency's key activities include monitoring of the World Anti-Doping Code, whose provisions are enforced by the UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport. It was established in 1999. Its Headquarters is in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Raja Chari is among the three astronauts selected by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the European Space Agency (ESA) to fly to the International Space Station (ISS) as part of the SpaceX Crew-3 mission. The Indian-American will command the mission, which is expected to launch in the fall of 2021. Earlier this year in January, Chari became one of the 11 astronauts to join NASA's ranks. The new graduates completed more than two years of basic training and became the first to graduate from NASA's Artemis programme. Under the programme, NASA wants to send the next man and first woman to the Moon by 2024. The Crew-3 mission is part of NASA's contract with SpaceX, under its Commercial Crew Programme, as per which SpaceX will provide six crew missions to the ISS for NASA astronauts. The idea is to provide reliable, safe and cost-effective crew access to the space station and the low-Earth orbit. The crew members will spend six months at the ISS.

3. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announced the formal recognition of Yogasana as a competitive sport at a joint press conference. The origins of Yogasana competitions can be traced to the Indian Yoga tradition, where such competitions have been held for centuries. Yogasana is an integral and important component of Yoga, which is psycho-physical in nature and popular across the globe for its efficacy in fitness and general wellness. Competitions that will arise out of the recognition of Yogasana as a sport will enhance interest in Yoga among people around the globe. Government of India

is planning to include Yogasana as a Sport discipline in National Games, Khelo India and international sports events.

4. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) in its meeting, held under the Chairmanship of Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh approved proposals to procure equipment worth Rs 28,000 crore. This is the first meeting of the DAC under the new regime of Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020 and these are the first set of Acceptance of Necessity (AoNs) accorded with majority AoNs being accorded in the highest categorization of Buy Indian (IDDM). 6 of the 7 proposals, that is, Rs 27,000 Cr out of Rs 28,000 cr for which AoNs were granted will be sourced from the Indian industry to give a boost to the “Make in India” and “Atmanirbhar Bharat” initiatives of the Government. Acquisition proposals approved today include the DRDO designed and developed Airborne Early Warning & Control (AEW&C) Systems for the Indian Air Force, Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels for the Indian Navy and Modular Bridges for the Indian Army.

5. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India and Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh held a Summit in virtual format on 17 December 2020. The two sides jointly inaugurated the Bangabandhu-Bapu Digital Exhibition. The two sides jointly inaugurated a railway link between Haldibari in India and Chilahati in Bangladesh during the summit. Haldibari - Chilahati route will be beneficial for transit into Bangladesh from Assam and West Bengal. Both sides also agreed to hold an early meeting of the Joint Boundary Conference to prepare a new set of strip maps along the stretch of Ichhamati, Kalindi, Raimongol and the Hariabhanga Rivers. Bangladesh requested India to name the historic road from Mujib Nagar to Nodia on Bangladesh-India border as "Shadhinota Shorok" commemorating the historic significance of the road during Bangladesh's Liberation War. The following bilateral development partnership projects were also inaugurated: Beautification and city development project in Rajshahi City; Construction of Khalishpur Collegiate Girl's School in Khulna;

6. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

India's communication satellite CMS-01 was successfully launched by PSLV-C50 on December 17, 2020 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota. CMS-01 is envisaged to provide services in the extended-C Band of the frequency spectrum that will cover the Indian mainland, the Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands. It was India's 42nd communication satellite with a

mission life of over seven years. The satellite will be placed in the specified slot in the geosynchronous orbit. Subsequently, it will function as the continuation of GSAT11 launched 11 years back.” PSLV-C50 is the 52nd flight of PSLV and 22nd flight of PSLV in 'XL' configuration (with 6 strap-on motors).

7. Ans) (d)

Explanation

Quality Council of India (QCI) was set up in 1997 by Government of India jointly with Indian Industry as an autonomous body to establish and operate the National Accreditation Structure for conformity assessment bodies. It is not a statutory body. The Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, is the nodal ministry for QCI. QCI is a pioneering experiment of the Government of India in setting up organizations in partnership with the Indian industry. Indian industry is represented in QCI by three premier industry associations namely Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and FICCI.

8. Ans) (a)

Explanation

Amidst the ongoing farmer's protests, questions are being raised on the sustainability of paddy-wheat cultivation, especially in Punjab. There are several reasons for this: Monoculture in Punjab: Monoculture is the agricultural practice of growing a single crop, plant, or livestock species, variety, or breed in a field or farming system at a time. Wheat and paddy constitute about 84.6% of the total area planted to all crops compromising on pulses, maize, bajra and oilseeds cotton. Problem of Monoculture: Growing the same crops year after year on the same land increases vulnerability to pest and disease attacks. The more the crop and genetic diversity, the more difficult it is for insects and pathogens to devise a way to pierce through plant resistance. Wheat and paddy cannot fix nitrogen, unlike pulses and legumes, that fixes nitrogen from the atmosphere. Their continuous cultivation without any crop rotation, then, leads to depletion of soil nutrients and growing dependence on chemical fertilisers and pesticides. Thus they require more fertilisers than pulses. Paddy requires a huge amount of water. Punjab's groundwater table has been declining by 0.5 meters per annum on an average due to paddy and the state's policy of supplying free power for irrigation. It has encouraged farmers to grow long-duration water-guzzling varieties of paddy like Pusa-44.

9. Ans) (c)

Explanation

According to the Human Development Report (HDR) 2020 released by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), India has slipped two places from the previous year which was 131 (among 189 countries) on the Human Development Index for 2019. The 2020 Report has introduced planetary

pressures-adjusted Human Development Index, which adjusts the standard Human Development Index (HDI) by a country's per capita carbon dioxide emissions and material footprint. The Gender Inequality Index: GII presents a composite measure of gender inequality using three dimensions: Reproductive health, Empowerment and The labour market. In GII, India is at 123rd rank. Last year, it was ranked 122nd out of 162 countries.

10. Ans) (a)

Explanation

The Constitution of India, the supreme law of the land, guarantees freedom of speech and expression under Article 19, which deals with 'Protection of certain rights regarding freedom of speech, etc. Freedom of press is not expressly protected by Indian legal system but it is impliedly protected under article 19(1) (a) of the constitution, which states - "All citizens shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression". Press Council of India (PCI) is a regulatory body established under the Press Council of India Act of 1978. It is a statutory, quasi judicial body which acts as a watchdog of the press It aims to preserve the freedom of the press and maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India. The Paris based Reporters Without Borders (RSF) publishes annually a World Press Freedom Index (WPFI) purporting to evaluate the level of freedom available to the media in 180 countries. India has dropped to two places on the World Press Freedom Index, 2020 to be ranked 142nd out of 180 countries.