



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 18-07-2020

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

Reliance Industries CMD Mukesh Ambani announced that the company's telecom venture Jio has designed and developed from scratch, a complete indigenous 5G solution ready for deployment. This will enable Jio to export 5G solutions to other telecom players globally.

5G or fifth generation is the latest upgrade in the long term evolution (LTE) mobile broadband networks. All 5G networks chiefly operate on three spectrum bands. The low-band spectrum has been proven to have great coverage but the maximum speed limit on this band is 100 Mbps (Megabits per second). In the mid-band spectrum, though the speeds are higher, but has limitations related to coverage area and penetration of telephone signals into buildings. The high-band spectrum offers the highest speed but has extremely limited network coverage area and penetration capabilities. The 5G networks will have even faster speeds with latency down to between 1-10 milliseconds. Latency is the time a device takes to communicate with the network, which stands at an average of up to 50 milliseconds for 4G networks across the world.

2. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

Pakistan and China signed an agreement for the 700 MW Azad Pattan hydel power project on the Jhelum river in Sudhoti district of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK). The project is a run-of-the-river scheme with a reservoir located near Muslimabad village, 7 km upstream from the Azad Pattan bridge, in district Sudhnoti, one of the eight districts of PoK. The project will be commissioned by 2024. The project will comprise a 90-metre-high dam, with a 3.8 sq km reservoir. The Azad Pattan project is one of five hydropower schemes on the Jhelum. Upstream from Azad Pattan are the Mahl, Kohala, and Chakothi Hattian projects; Karot is downstream. Like Kohala and Azad Pattan, Karot too, is being developed under the CPEC framework. This \$ 1.5-billion project is the second power project under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), for which an agreement has been signed in the last two months. The first agreement, for the 1,100 MW Kohala project, was signed in June 2020. That project, worth \$ 2.3 billion, too will come up on the Jhelum near Muzaffarabad.

3. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2020 report was released on the sidelines of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development which tracks the progress of nations towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

It is produced jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Its first edition was brought out in 2017.

4. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

The Office of the Registrar General's Sample Registration System (SRS) released the special bulletin on Maternal Mortality in India 2016-18.

Key findings:

The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in India has declined to 113 in 2016-18 from 122 in 2015-17 and 130 in 2014-2016.

The MMR of various States according to the bulletin includes Assam (215), Bihar (149), Madhya Pradesh (173), Chhattisgarh (159), Odisha (150), Rajasthan (164), Uttar Pradesh (197) and Uttarakhand (99).

The southern States registered a lower MMR — Andhra Pradesh (65), Telangana (63), Karnataka (92), Kerala (43) and Tamil Nadu (60).

MMR is defined as the number of maternal deaths per 1,00,000 live births.

The target 3.1 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) set by the United Nations aims to reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 1,00,000 live births.

As per the World Health Organization, maternal death is the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management.

5. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

The Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) terror group's leader Noor WaliMehsud has been designated as a global terrorist by the UN for participating in the financing, planning and perpetrating acts on behalf of and in support of entities associated with al-Qaida.

The UN Security Council's 1267 ISIL and al-Qaida Sanctions Committee added Mehsud, 42, to the ISIL (Da'esh) and al-Qaida Sanctions List, subjecting the Pakistani national to an assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo.

Blacklisting by the Security Council entails that all states are required to freeze without delay the funds and other financial assets or economic resources of designated individuals and entities.

They are also required to prevent the entry into or transit through their territories by the designated individuals and prevent the transfer from their territories of arms and all materials related to designated individuals and entities.

6. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

On July 16, 1945, exactly 75 years ago, scientists tested Gadget — the world's first atomic bomb — in what was dubbed as the 'Trinity Test'. Trinity was the code name of the first detonation of a nuclear device. It was conducted by the United States Army on July 16, 1945, as part of the Manhattan Project. The test was conducted in the Jornada del Muerto desert about 56 km southeast of Socorro, New Mexico. The test was planned and directed by Kenneth Bainbridge. The test was of an implosion-design plutonium device, informally nicknamed "The Gadget", of the same design as the Fat Man bomb later detonated over Nagasaki, Japan, on August 9, 1945.

The Manhattan Project was a research and development undertaking during World War II that produced the first nuclear weapons. It was led by the United States with the support of the United Kingdom and Canada.

7. Ans) (c)

Explanation

National Biopharma Mission is an industry-academia collaborative mission for accelerating biopharmaceutical development in the country.

It was launched in 2017 at a total cost of Rs. 1500 crore and is 50% co-funded by World Bank loan.

It is being implemented by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC). BIRAC is a Public Sector Enterprise, set up by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology. Under this Mission, the Government has launched Innovate in India (i3) programme to create an enabling ecosystem to promote entrepreneurship and indigenous manufacturing in the biopharma sector. Objectives of the mission are development of vaccines, medical devices, diagnostics and biotherapeutics besides, strengthening the clinical trial capacity and building technology transfer capabilities in the country.

8. Ans) (c)

Explanation

Grants from the Union Government to Panchayats (Rural Local Bodies (RLBs)) are based on the recommendations of the Central Finance Commission as per Article 280 of the Constitution.

The Ministry of Finance has recently released a part of grants-in-aid of Rs. 15187.50 crore for around 2.63 lakh Rural Local Bodies (RLBs) of 28 States.

This has been made on the recommendations of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti.

This forms part of the Tied Grant as recommended by the 15th Finance Commission (FC) for the Financial Year (FY) 2020-2021.

The allocation made by the Finance Commission is done in two parts, namely Basic Grant and Tied Grant in 50:50% mode.

Basic grants are untied and can be used by RLBs for location-specific needs, except for salary or other establishment expenditure.

The 'Untied' funds are utilised for the works of emergent nature which are normally not covered under the schemes decentralized at the district level.

9. Ans) (d)

Explanation

Voluntary national review of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) report has been presented by the NitiAyog at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

This is the 2nd VNR of SDG report. The title of this year's report is 'Decade of Action: Taking SDGs from Global to Local'.

According to the report, at least 271 million people were lifted out of multi-dimensional poverty between 2005-06 and 2016-17. Hence statement 2 is correct.

The poverty estimates presented were drawn from the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index -2019 (MPI-2019). Hence the statement 3 is correct. As per the MPI-2019, the number of people living under poverty decreased to around 369.55 million by 2016-2017 from 640 million people in 2005-06.

The Multidimensional Poverty Index was launched by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI) in 2010.

MPI uses three dimensions and ten indicators which are:

Education: Years of schooling and child enrollment (1/6 weightage each, total 2/6);

Health: Child mortality and nutrition (1/6 weightage each, total 2/6);

Standard of living: Electricity, flooring, drinking water, sanitation, cooking fuel and assets (1/18 weightage each, total 2/6).

10. Ans) (c)

Explanation

The Delimitation Commission is appointed by the President of India and works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India.

It is usually composed of the retired Supreme Court judge, Chief Election Commissioner and respective states' Election Commissioners.

Article 82 and Article 170 of the Indian constitution provides that the Parliamentary constituencies and state legislative assemblies respectively to be redrawn by a Delimitation commission, established after every Census.

However, there is no such commission for urban local bodies.

It redraws the boundaries and determines the number of constituencies to make the population of all constituencies nearly equal. Thereby, working on the principle of One Vote One Value.