



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 20-11-2020

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Prime Minister Modi and the Prime Minister of Luxembourg held the first-ever India-Luxembourg Virtual Summit on 19 November 2020. It is a founding member of the EU. In this context, the two leaders exchanged views on further strengthening India EU relations including forward movement on India EU trade agreements and investment agreements. The Luxembourg Prime Minister conveyed the intention of Luxembourg to join the International Solar Alliance. Mr Modi invited Luxembourg to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. The leaders looked forward to the 17th Joint Economic Commission between India and the Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union to review the economic and trade relations. Three agreements were signed coinciding with the Summit. The agreements were MoU between India International Exchange (India INX) and Luxembourg Stock Exchange MoU between State Bank of India and Luxembourg Stock Exchange MoU between Invest India and Luxinnovation

2. Ans (b)

Explanation:

Hence statement 1 is incorrect: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, National Capital Region Transport Corporation Limited (NCRRTC) and the New Development Bank (NDB) signed a loan agreement for lending 500 million dollars for the 'Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System Project'. Hence statement 2 is correct: The Rapid Transit System will provide a fast, reliable, safe and comfortable public transport system in the National Capital Region. Due to lack of efficient public transport options, the number of private vehicles in NCR has increased. It can take about 3 to 4 hours to travel between Delhi and Meerut in Uttar Pradesh by road during peak hours. Rapid growth in vehicular traffic has made NCR one of the most polluted regions in the world.

3. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Prime Ministers of India and Bhutan will virtually launch RuPay Card phase-2 in Bhutan on 20th of this month. The two Prime Ministers had jointly launched phase-1 of the project during Prime Minister NarendraModi's visit to Bhutan in August last year. The implementation of phase-1 of RuPay cards in

Bhutan has enabled Indian visitors in Bhutan to access ATMs and points of sale terminals across Bhutan. The phase-2 will now allow Bhutanese cardholders to access RuPay network in India.

4. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

President Ram Nath Kovind has sent his greetings to citizens on the eve of Chhath Puja. Hence statement 1 is incorrect: It is a Hindu festival dedicated to the Sun god and his wife Usha in order to thank them for bestowing the bounties of life on earth. The Goddess who is worshipped during the famous Chhath Puja is known as ChhathiMaiya (also known as Usha, wife of the sun god). The word chhath means sixth and the festival is celebrated on the sixth day of the month Kartika of the Hindu lunar BikramSambat calendar. The festival is observed over a period of four days. The rituals include holy bathing, fasting, standing in water for long periods of time, and offering prayers and food to the setting and rising sun. Hence statement 2 is incorrect: The main worshippers, called Parvaitin, are usually women. However, many men also observe this festival as Chhath is not a gender-specific festival.

The festival is observed most elaborately in Mithila Province of Nepal, Terai-Madhesh region of Nepal, Indian states of Bihar, Jharkhand and UP. It is also more prevalent in areas where migrants from those areas have a presence.

5. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' will be conferred with the Vatayan Lifetime Achievement Award at a virtual ceremony on 21st November, 2020. Hence statement 2 is correct: Vatayan International Awards given by the Vatayan-UK organization in London, honours poets, writers and artists for their exemplary work in their respective fields. Hence statement 1 is incorrect: Earlier many eminent personalities like Praseen Joshi, Javed Akhtar have been awarded the Vatayan Awards for their literary contribution. Shri Pokhriyal has penned more than 75 books on wide ranging issues, which have also been translated into many national and foreign languages. The German version 'Nurein Wunsch' of Shri Nishank's story collection 'Just a Desire', is published in Afro Asian Institute, Hamburg. His "Sparsh Ganga" initiative was included in Mauritius school curriculum. He has earlier received several awards in the field of literature including Sahitya Bharati Award by the then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Sahitya Gaurav Samman by Former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam etc.

6. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The Government of India, the Government of Meghalaya and the World Bank signed a \$120 million project to improve and modernise the transport sector of state of Meghalaya. The project will improve about 300 km of strategic road segments and stand-alone bridges by using innovative, climate resilient, and nature-based solutions. It will also support innovative solutions such as precast bridges to reduce both time and cost of construction. MITP will help Meghalaya develop reliable, climate resilient and safe roads which is crucial for the economic development of the state. About half of the 5,362 habitations in the state lack transport connectivity. This operation will also support state government's "Restart Meghalaya Mission" to revive and boost development activities affected due to COVID-19 pandemic. The \$120 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a maturity of 14 years including a grace period of 6 years.

7. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Delhi government on November 18 told the Delhi High Court that a personal vehicle on a public road cannot be said to be a private zone — rather, it is a public space. The argument was given by the state to defend its decision of making it compulsory for people to wear masks when they are travelling in their personal or official vehicles, alone or otherwise. The Delhi government referred to the Supreme Court judgment in 'Satvinder Singh @ Satvinder Singh Saluja' Ors Vs. The State of Bihar' to defend its directive on wearing masks in vehicles. The Supreme Court in its ruling said Section 2(17A) of the Bihar Excise (Amendment) Act, 2016 defines a "public place" to mean any place to which the public has access, whether as a matter of right or not — and includes all places visited by the general public, and also includes any open space. The court dismissed the argument that a vehicle is not covered by the definition of "public place" as given in the law amended in 2016 by Bihar.

8. Ans) (d)

Explanation

Recently, the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare digitally addressed the Ministerial meeting of the Global Prevention Coalition (GPC) for Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) Prevention. It was hosted by Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on behalf of the Global HIV Prevention Coalition (GPC). Project Sunrise is an initiative launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2016, to tackle the rising HIV. This project covers the north-eastern states in India, especially among people injecting drugs.

9. Ans) (c)

Explanation

Some patients infected with Covid-19 have been found suffering from GuillainBarre Syndrome (GBS). It is a very rare autoimmune disorder in which the patient's immune system attacks nerves. The exact cause of Guillain-Barre syndrome is unknown, but as per the World Health Organisation (WHO), GBS is often preceded by an infection. This could be a bacterial or viral infection. It may also be triggered by vaccine administration or surgery. In the past, patients of Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), Zika virus, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Herpes virus and Campylobacter jejuni have shown symptoms of GBS.

10. Ans) (a)

Explanation

Deemed Forests refer to land tracts that appear to be a “forest”, but have not been notified so by the government or in historical records. However, the concept of deemed forests has not even been clearly defined in any law including the Forest Conservation Act 1980. Deemed forests in India comprise only about 1% of India’s forest land.