



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 21-11-2020

EXPLANATION

1. Ans: c

Explanation:

India will see an investment of Rs 2 lakh crore in setting up 5,000 plants that will produce gas from bio and crop wastes by 2023-24,

To boost the availability of affordable and clean transport fuel, an agreement was signed for setting up 900 compressed bio-gas or CBG plants by companies such as Adani Gas and Torrent Gas. Under the Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiative, the government is looking at setting up of 5,000 CBG plants by 2023-24 with a production target of 15 million tonnes, an official statement said.

Hence statement 1 is correct: It provides for generating gas from municipal waste as well as forest and agri waste. Animal husbandry and marine wastes are also included.

Hence statement 2 is correct: The gas produced at CBG plants can be used as fuel to power automobiles. The policy provides for guaranteed offtake of the gas produced at the CBG plants by the state-owned firms.

2. Ans: b

Explanation :

The Virtual Court (traffic) and e-Challan project have been recently (12th November, 2020) inaugurated in Assam by the chief minister of Assam. Hence option (b) is correct.

The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Committee of Gauhati High Court in association with Government of Assam and Assam Police, under the aegis of e-Committee of Supreme Court of India, are spearheading the project in the State.

E-challan solution is an initiative of the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) whereas the software has been developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC). It will replace the present concept of manual challan with an electronically generated digital challan.

Virtual court is an initiative of E-Committee of Supreme Court along with Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice. It is an online court being managed by Virtual Judge (which is not a person but an algorithm) whose jurisdiction can be extended to entire state and working hours may be 24X7.

3. Ans: d

Explanation :

Scottish writer Douglas Stuart has won the 2020 Booker Prize for fiction with his debut novel *Shuggie Bain*, which described a boy growing up in Glasgow in the 1980s with a mother battling addiction. Hence option (d) is correct.

The Booker Prize for Fiction, formerly known as the Booker–McConnell Prize and the Man Booker Prize, is a literary prize. It was established in 1969 to promote the finest in fiction by rewarding the best novel of the year written in English.

The Booker Prize awards any novel originally written in English and published in the UK and Ireland in the year of the prize, regardless of the nationality of their author. The novel must be an original work in English (not a translation) It must be published by a registered UK or Irish imprint; self-published novels are not eligible. The winner receives £50,000 as well as the £2,500 awarded to each of the shortlisted authors. In this case, thanks to the award being shared, the prize money would be split between the two winners.

Organizations involved:

- o Man Group: Man Group is an active investment management firm founded in 1783. It has sponsored the Man Booker Prize since 2002

- o The Booker Prize Foundation: It is a registered charity established in 2002. Since then it has been responsible for the award of the Man Booker Prize for Fiction, and for the Man Booker International Prize since its inauguration in 2005.

4. Ans: d

Explanation: Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister inaugurated the Seismic Survey Campaign by Oil India Limited.

The survey under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy, OALP, will be undertaken in 5 blocks of 8 districts of Odisha in the Mahanadi basin and nearby areas. Hence option (d) is correct.

Declaring the campaign open through virtual mode, Union Minister said that the commercial production of oil and gas from the Mahanadi basin will be a game changer in the socio-economic development of Odisha. Mahanadi basin would emerge as an established and important hydrocarbon reserve in the oil map of India.

5. Ans: b

Explanation: World Fisheries Day is being celebrated on 21st of November. Hence statement 2 is correct: The day is celebrated every year on November 21 throughout the fishing communities to highlight the importance of lives of water creatures to humans.

Hence statement 1 is incorrect: It started in 1997 where “World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers” met at New Delhi leading to formation of “World Fisheries Forum” with representatives from

18 countries and signed a declaration advocating sustainable fishing practices.

On 10th of September this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the “Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana” (PMMSY) at an estimated investment of 20 thousand 50 crore rupees for a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25. The scheme aims to achieve fish production to 22 million metric tonnes by 2024-25 and also to create an additional employment opportunity to about 55 lakh people. India contributes about 7.7 per cent to the global fish production and it ranks 4th in global exports of fish products.

6. Ans: c

Explanation:

Union Rural Development Minister interacted with Rural Development Ministers and officials of the States on the occasion of “Awaas Diwas” celebration.

The Rural Housing Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G) was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 20th of November 2016 at Agra, Uttar Pradesh. To commemorate the launch of PMAY-G, which aims to provide “Housing for All” by 2022, it was decided to celebrate 20th November every year as Awaas Diwas. Hence both the statements are correct.

The program envisages the completion of 2.95 crore houses with all basic amenities by the year 2022. In the first phase of the scheme from 2016-17 to 2018-19, a target for construction of one crore pucca houses were set. In the second phase of the scheme starting from 2019-20 to 2021-22, the target of construction of the remaining 1.95 crore houses has been set. Hence option(c) is correct.

7. Ans: b

Explanation: New Development Bank (NDB) is a multilateral development bank jointly founded by the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) at the 6th BRICS Summit in Fortaleza, Brazil in 2014.

It was formed to support infrastructure and sustainable development efforts in BRICS and other underserved, emerging economies for faster development through innovation and cutting-edge technology. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

In 2018, the NDB received observer status in the United Nations General Assembly, establishing a firm basis for active and fruitful cooperation with the UN. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

To fulfill its purpose, the Bank supports public or private projects through loans, guarantees, equity participation and other financial instruments.

8. Ans: d

Explanation: The National Supercomputing Mission (NSM), launched in 2015, aims at empowering the national academic and Research and Development (R&D) institutions spread over the country by

installing a vast supercomputing grid comprising more than 70 high-performance computing facilities. The mission is implemented and steered jointly by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY). Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Param Siddhi and Pratyush, both the supercomputers developed under this mission have been ranked 63rd and 78th (respectively) among the top 500 most powerful non-distributed computer systems in the world. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Param Siddhi is a High Performance Computing-Artificial Intelligence (HPC-AI) supercomputer developed by Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) under National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) at Centre for Development of Advanced Computing.

Pratyush is a supercomputer used for weather forecasting at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune.

9. Ans: b

Explanation: Recently, Willow Warbler has been sighted for the first time in India at Vellayani-Punchakkari paddy fields, Kerala.

They breed throughout northern and temperate Europe and the Palearctic. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

They migrate to sub-Saharan Africa during early winter.

Features:

It is one of the longest migrating small birds.

The bird weighs around 10 grams and its long wing feathers help it fly long distances.

The species is affected by drought conditions in its wintering quarters and habitat alterations due to human population expansion.

IUCN Red List: Least Concerned. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

10. Ans: a

Explanation: The Union Minister of Education virtually launched the Lilavati Award-2020. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

It is AICTE's (All India Council for Technical Education) Innovative education program to empower women. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

All the stakeholders (especially the girl students) in AICTE approved institutions would get an opportunity to present a solution to the prevalent issues of gender discrimination, such as illiteracy, unemployment, economic and nutritional disparities, maternal mortality, human rights, etc.

The award has been named after the 12th century book called "Lilavati". The book was written by the mathematician Bhaskara II.

Lilavati was the daughter of Indian Mathematician Bhaskara II. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.