



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 26-06-2020

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for declaration of Kushinagar Airport in Uttar Pradesh as an International Airport. Kushinagar is located in the north-eastern part of Uttar Pradesh about 50 km east of Gorakhpur and is one of the important Buddhist pilgrimage sites. Kushinagar Airport is also located in the vicinity of several Buddhist Cultural Sites like Sravasti, Kapilvastu and Lumbini. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

2. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved setting up of Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) worth Rs. 15000 crore.

AHIDF would facilitate much needed incentivisation of investments in establishment of infrastructure for dairy and meat processing and value addition infrastructure and establishment of animal feed plant in the private sector.

The eligible beneficiaries under the Scheme would be Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), MSMEs, Section 8 Companies, Private Companies and individual entrepreneur with minimum 10% margin money contribution by them.

The balance 90% would be the loan component to be made available by scheduled banks.

Government of India will provide 3% interest subvention to eligible beneficiaries. There will be 2 years moratorium period for principal loan amount and 6 years repayment period thereafter.

Government of India would also set up Credit Guarantee Fund of Rs. 750 crore to be managed by NABARD.

Credit guarantee would be provided to those sanctioned projects which are covered under MSME defined ceilings.

Guarantee Coverage would be upto 25% of Credit facility of borrower.

3. Ans) (b)

Explanation :

Union Cabinet approved a scheme for interest subvention of 2% for a period of 12 months, to all Shishu loan accounts under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) to eligible borrowers. The

scheme will be extended to loans which meet the following criteria - outstanding as on 31st March, 2020; and not in Non-Performing Asset (NPA) category, as per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines, on 31st March 2020 and during the period of operation of the Scheme. The interest subvention would be payable for the months in which the accounts are not in NPA category including for the months that the account becomes a performing asset again, after turning NPA. The scheme will incentivize people who will make regular repayments of loans. The estimated cost of the Scheme would be approximately Rs. 1,542 crore which would be provided by the Government of India. The Scheme will be implemented through the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and will be in operation for 12 months.

Under PMMY, loans for income generating activities up to Rs. 50,000 are termed as Shishu loans. PMMY loans are extended by Member Lending Institutions viz. Scheduled Commercial Banks, Non-Banking Finance Companies and Micro Financial Institutions, registered with Mudra Ltd.

4. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved additional investment of US\$ 121.27 million (about Rs.909 crore) by ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) towards further development of blocks A-1 and A-3 Blocks of Shwe oil & gas project in Myanmar. ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) has been associated with exploration and development of Shwe project in Myanmar since 2002, as part of consortium of companies from South Korea, India and Myanmar. The Indian PSU, GAIL, is also an investor in this project. OVL has invested US\$ 722 million till 31st March 2019 in this project. The first gas from the Shwe Project was received in July 2013 and plateau production was reached in December 2014. The Project has been generating positive cash flows since FY 2014-15. The participation of Indian PSUs in oil & gas exploration and development projects in neighbouring countries is aligned with India's Act East

Policy, and also part of India's efforts to develop Energy Bridges with its immediate neighbours

5. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

As Earth's climate warms, the permafrost is thawing. That means the ice inside the permafrost melts, leaving behind water and soil.

Thawing permafrost can have dramatic impacts on our planet and the things living on it. For example: Many northern villages are built on permafrost. When permafrost is frozen, it's harder than concrete. However, thawing permafrost can destroy houses, roads and other infrastructure.

When permafrost is frozen, plant material in the soil—called organic carbon—can't decompose, or rot away. As permafrost thaws, microbes begin decomposing this material. This process releases greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane to the atmosphere.

When permafrost thaws, so do ancient bacteria and viruses in the ice and soil. These newly-unfrozen microbes could make humans and animals very sick. Scientists have discovered microbes more than 400,000 years old in thawed permafrost.

6. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

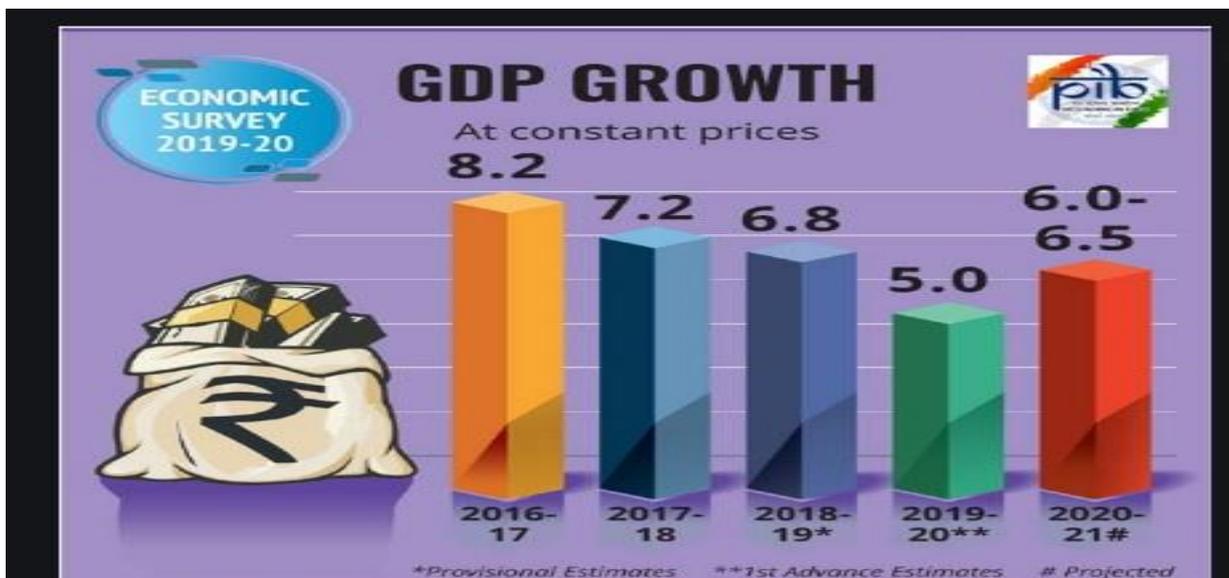
According to the census report, released by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) the population estimation of Asian elephant in India is around 27,312. Karnataka has the highest number of elephants (6,049), followed by Assam (5,719) and Kerala (3,054).

The population estimation of Asian elephants in 2017 census is lower than from the last census estimate in 2012 (between 29,391 and 30,711). The Indian elephant (*Elephas maximus indicus*) is one of three extant recognised subspecies of the Asian elephant and native to mainland Asia.

Since 1986, the Asian elephant has been listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List. IUCN status of African Elephant is Vulnerable

7. Ans) (a)

Explanation:



The growth rate of 3.1% in Q4 of 2019-20 was the lowest since Q3 of 2002-03.

8. Ans) (b)

Explanation: Saleki proposed reserve forest (PRF) is one of the more than two dozen PRFs in the DehingPatkai area. Taken together, they form a contiguous forested landscape that also connects to the Deomali elephant reserve in Arunachal Pradesh.

9. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Biorock is the name given to the substance formed by electro accumulation of minerals dissolved in seawater on steel structures that are lowered onto the sea bed and are connected to a power source, in this case solar panels that float on the surface. “The technology works by passing a small amount of electrical current through electrodes in the water. “When a positively charged anode and negatively charged cathode are placed on the sea floor, with an electric current flowing between them, calcium ions combine with carbonate ions and adhere to the structure (cathode). This results in calcium carbonate formation. Coral larvae adhere to the CaCO_3 and grow quickly. Fragments of broken corals are tied to the biorock structure, where they are able to grow at least four to six times faster than their actual growth as they need not spend their energy in building their own calcium carbonate skeletons.

10. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

India hosted the 13th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS COP13), a major United Nations wildlife conference, in Gandhinagar. The theme of the conference is “Migratory species connect the planet and together we welcome them home”.

The CMS is an environmental treaty of the UN that provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats. It is the only global convention specialising in the conservation of migratory species, their habitats and migration routes.

The pact was signed in 1979 in Germany and is known as the Bonn Convention.

“CMS brings together the States through which migratory animals pass, the Range States, and lays the legal foundation for internationally coordinated conservation measures throughout a migratory range,”