



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 01-05-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

14,491 ha area under Car Nicobar and Nancowry group of islands in Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands becomes the first large contiguous territory to be conferred with organic certification under 'Large Area Certification' scheme. Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) is working to identify Traditional Organic Areas to transform them into certified organic production hubs. Large Area Certification (LAC) programme Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare under its flagship scheme of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna (PKVY) has launched a unique quick certification programme "Large Area Certification" (LAC) to harness these potential areas. LAC is a Quick certification process that is cost-effective and farmers do not have to wait for 2-3 years for marketing organic certified products. Under LAC, each village in the area is considered as one cluster/group. Documentations are simple and maintained village-wise. All farmers with their farmland and livestock need to adhere to the standard requirements and on being verified get certified en-mass without the need to go under conversion period. Certification is renewed on annual basis through annual verification by a process of peer appraisals.

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

NASA has extracted oxygen from the carbon dioxide in the thin Martian atmosphere. The unprecedented extraction of oxygen on Mars was achieved by a device called Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilization Experiment (MOXIE) It is aboard Perseverance, a six-wheeled science rover.

It produced about 5 grams of oxygen, equivalent to roughly 10 minutes' worth of breathing for an astronaut. NASA is planning that future human missions would take scaled-up versions of Moxie with them to the Red Planet rather than try to carry all the oxygen needed to sustain them. Mars' atmosphere is dominated by carbon dioxide (CO₂) at a concentration of 96%. The expectation is that it can produce up to 10 grams of O₂ per hour. This is the first extraction of a natural resource from the environment of another planet.

3. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

A woman officer from the Maharashtra Prison Department was dismissed from service after an inquiry

revealed that she violated the Maharashtra Civil Services (Declaration of Small Family) rules because she suppressed the information from the authorities that she has three children. What is the 'two children' service rule for Maharashtra government employees?

The Maharashtra Civil Services (Declaration of Small Family) Rule of 2005 defines a small family as wife, husband and two children. It stipulates that a person is not eligible for a job with Maharashtra Government if he or she has more than two children after 2005. The definition of child under these rules does not include adopted children.

Background:

Maharashtra is one of the few states in the country that have a 'two children' policy for appointment in government jobs or even for the elections of some local government bodies. Other states such as Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, Gujarat, Odisha, Uttarakhand and Assam being the latest addition to the list in 2019.

4. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

In exercise of the power conferred by clause (1) of Article 217 of the Constitution of India, the President has appointed Smt. Justice Vimla S. Kapoor, Additional Judge of the Chhattisgarh High Court, to be Judge of the Chhattisgarh High Court with effect from the date she assumes charge of her office.

Overview of Article 217 (1):

Appointment and conditions of the office of a Judge of a High Court:

(1) Every Judge of a High Court shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal after consultation with the Chief Justice of India, the Governor of the State, and, in the case of appointment of a Judge other than the chief Justice, the chief Justice of the High court, and shall hold office, in the case of an additional or acting Judge, as provided in Article 224, and in any other case, until he attains the age of sixty two years Provided that:

(a) a Judge may, by writing under his hand addressed to the President, resign his office. (b) a Judge may be removed from his office by the President in the manner provided in clause (4) of Article 124 for the removal of a Judge of the Supreme Court. (c) the office of a Judge shall be vacated by his being appointed by the President to be a Judge of the Supreme Court or by his being transferred by the President to any other High Court within the territory of India.

5. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

MPs have appealed to Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla asking them to allow virtual meetings of the parliamentary panels.

Background:

With the country in midst of a virulent second wave of COVID-19 pandemic, there has been no meeting of the standing committees for more than a month now.

What are Parliamentary Committees?

A parliamentary committee is a “committee which is appointed or elected by the House or nominated by the Speaker and which works under the direction of the Speaker and presents its report to the House or to the Speaker and the Secretariat”.

Constitutional Provisions:

Parliamentary committees draw their authority from Article 105 (on privileges of Parliament members) and Article 118 (on Parliament’s authority to make rules for regulating its procedure and conduct of business). Composition of Departmentally-related standing committees (DRSCs):

Until the 13th Lok Sabha, each DRSC comprised 45 members — 30 nominated from Lok Sabha and 15 from the Rajya Sabha.

However, with their restructuring in July 2004, each DRSC now has 31 members — 21 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha, to be nominated by Lok Sabha Speaker and Rajya Sabha chairman, respectively. They are appointed for a maximum period of one year and the committees are reconstituted every year cutting across party lines. Composition of Financial Committees: The estimates committee has 30 members, all from the Lok Sabha. Both the public accounts committee and the committee on public undertakings have 22 members each — 15 elected from the Lok Sabha and seven from the Rajya Sabha.

6. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

A Crisil Research analysis shows that the Centre’s scrappage policy is unlikely to have freight transporters queuing up to replace old vehicles with new ones. The scrappage volume of buses, passenger vehicles (PVs) and two-wheelers will be limited as well.

Issues with the new policy:

Limited incentive and poor cost economics for trucks.

Lack of addressable volumes for other segments.

The potential benefit from scrapping a 15-year-old, entry-level small car will be ₹70,000, whereas its resale value is around ₹95,000. That makes scrapping unattractive.

Need of the hour:

With this background, for the scrappage policy to be seamlessly implemented, we should have a comprehensive plan in terms of removing ELV (End of life vehicles) from the road. Freight transporters need stronger financial support. However, that said, it is important to note that unless old fleet vehicles are off the road, the benefits of implementation of BSVI vehicles will not be fully leveraged.

About the Vehicle Scrappage Policy:

Old vehicles will have to pass a fitness test before re-registration and as per the policy government commercial vehicles more than 15 years old and private vehicles which are over 20 years old will be scrapped. As a disincentive, increased re-registration fees would be applicable for vehicles 15 years or older from the initial date registration. The state governments may be advised to offer a road-tax rebate of up to 25% for personal vehicles and up to 15% for commercial vehicles to provide incentive to owners of old vehicles to scrap old and unfit vehicles.

7. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Aditya-L1 Support Cell is a community service centre that has been set up to bring all data on board India's first dedicated solar space mission to a single web-based interface. It is a joint effort of Indian Space Research Organisation and Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences. It will allow every interested individual to perform scientific analysis of the data.

About Aditya- L1 mission:

It is India's first solar mission. It will be launched using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) in XL. It will have seven payloads (instruments) on board. It seeks to study the Sun's corona, solar emissions, solar winds and flares, and Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs), and will carry out round-the-clock imaging of the Sun.

Significance of the mission:

The data from Aditya mission will be immensely helpful in discriminating between different models for the origin of solar storms and also for constraining how the storms evolve and what path they take through the interplanetary space from the Sun to the Earth.

Position of the satellite:

In order to get the best science from the sun, continuous viewing of the sun is preferred without any occultation/ eclipses and hence, Aditya- L1 satellite will be placed in the halo orbit around the Lagrangian point 1 (L1) of the sun-earth system.

Why do we study the sun and the solar wind?

The sun is the only star we can study up close. By studying this star we live with, we learn more about stars throughout the universe. The sun is a source of light and heat for life on Earth. The more we know about it, the more we can understand how life on Earth developed. It is the source of the solar wind; a flow of ionized gases from the sun that streams past Earth at speeds of more than 500 km per second (a million miles per hour). Disturbances in the solar wind shake Earth's magnetic field and pump energy into the radiation belts, part of a set of changes in near-Earth space known as space weather. Effects On satellites: Space weather can change the orbits of satellites, shorten their lifetimes, or interfere with onboard electronics. The more we learn about what causes space weather – and how to predict it – the more we can protect the satellites we depend on. Safety and preparedness: The solar wind dominates the

space environment. As we send spacecraft and astronauts further and further from home, we must understand this space environment just as early seafarers needed to understand the ocean.

8. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Chinese space mining start-up launched into low Earth orbit a robot prototype that can scoop up debris left behind by other spacecraft with a big net.

9. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

India, Japan and Australia formally launched the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) to build resilient supply chains in the Indo-Pacific region as they seek to reduce dependence on China. Aim: To create a virtuous cycle of enhancing supply chain resilience with a view to eventually attaining strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth in the region. Some of the joint measures shall include: (1) Supporting the enhanced utilisation of digital technology; (2) Trade and investment diversification It will also focus on sharing best practices on supply chain resilience, holding investment promotion events, buyer-seller matching events to provide opportunities for stakeholders to explore the possibility of diversification of their supply chains. Expansion of the SCRI may be considered based on consensus, if needed, in due course.

10. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

DRDO conducts maiden trial of Python-5 Air to Air Missile. Tejas, India's indigenous Light Combat Aircraft, added the 5th generation Python-5 Air-to-Air Missile (AAM) in its air-to-air weapons capability Trials were also aimed to validate enhanced capability of Derby Beyond Visual Range (BVR) AAM on Tejas. The trials also validated its performance under extremely challenging scenarios. The trials met all their planned objectives.