



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 08-07-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Seeking potential overseas off-takers for the flyash produced by its thermal power plants, NTPC has invited Expression of Interest (EoI) for sale of the residual product to the West Asian and other regions.

It will supply the ash from power plants to ports and the total quantum earmarked for export is 14.5 million tonne (MT) per year.

Background:

As per the norms set by the Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change, thermal plants are supposed to utilise 100% of fly ash from the fourth year of operation.

What is Fly Ash?

Popularly known as Flue ash or pulverised fuel ash, it is a coal combustion product.

Composition:

Composed of the particulates that are driven out of coal-fired boilers together with the flue gases. Depending upon the source and composition of the coal being burned, the components of fly ash vary considerably, but all fly ash includes substantial amounts of silicon dioxide (SiO₂), aluminium oxide (Al₂O₃) and calcium oxide (CaO), the main mineral compounds in coal-bearing rock strata. Minor constituents include: arsenic, beryllium, boron, cadmium, chromium, hexavalent chromium, cobalt, lead, manganese, mercury, molybdenum, selenium, strontium, thallium, and vanadium, along with very small concentrations of dioxins and PAH compounds. It also has unburnt carbon.

2. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The last US and Nato forces have left Afghanistan's Bagram airbase, the centre of the war against militants for some 20 years. The pull-out could signal that the complete withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan is imminent. The airbase is located next to the ancient city of Bagram.

3. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released its Financial Stability Report (FSR). The FSR which is published biannually reflects the collective assessment of the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) on risks to financial stability and the resilience of the financial system.

The Report also discusses issues relating to development and regulation of the financial sector.

4. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

A delegation of Trinamool Congress (TMC) MPs recently met President Ram Nath Kovind and sought the removal of Tushar Mehta as the Solicitor General of India, on the grounds of “criminal misconduct” and “gross impropriety” following his meeting with BJP MLA Suwendu Adhikari.

What’s the issue?

Suwendu Adhikari is an accused in the 2016 Narada tapes case, and Mr. Mehta is representing the CBI in the Supreme Court and the Calcutta High Court in the agency’s probe against senior TMC leaders in the matter. Experts say such a meeting, between one of the highest serving law officers of India, the Solicitor General, who is also appointed as the Special Public Prosecutor for the CBI and an accused person being investigated by the same agency, raises extremely serious doubts of impropriety. Also, Such meetings make a mockery of the criminal justice system and would only serve to destroy the common man’s faith in the judiciary.

Solicitor General- Key facts:

Solicitor General is the second highest law officer in the country. He is subordinate to the Attorney General of India, the highest law officer and works under him. He also advises the government in legal matters. Solicitor general is appointed for period of three years by Appointment Committee of Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister.

5. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Union Education Minister launches NIPUN Bharat Programme.

About the Programme:

NIPUN stands for the National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy. The Programme is an initiative of the Ministry of Education. It will be implemented by the Department of School Education and Literacy. Target: It has been envisioned for ensuring that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of Grade 3, by 2026-27. It will cover the learning needs of children in the age group of 3 to 9 years.

Implementation:

A five-tier implementation mechanism will be set up at the National- State- District- Block- School level in all States and UTs, under the aegis of the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha.

Focus areas:

The mission focuses on different domains of development like physical and motor development, socio-emotional development, literacy and numeracy development, cognitive development, life skills etc. for Holistic development of the child. It is envisaged to support and encourage students, along with their

schools, teachers, parents, and communities, in every way possible, to help realise the true potential of children and propel the country to new heights.

6. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed an anti-Methanogenic feed supplement 'Harit Dhara' (HD).

Significance of this supplement:

This supplement can cut down cattle methane emissions by 17-20% and can also result in higher milk production.

What is Harit Dhara?

It has been made from tannin-rich plant-based sources. Tropical plants containing tannins, bitter and astringent chemical compounds, are known to suppress or remove protozoa from the rumen.

Benefits:

It decreases the population of protozoa microbes in the rumen, responsible for hydrogen production and making it available to the archaea (structure similar to bacteria) for reduction of CO₂ to methane.

Fermentation after using this supplement will help produce more propionic acid, which provides more energy for lactose (milk sugar) production and body weight gain. Reduces methane production: An average lactating cow or buffalo in India emits around 200 litres of methane per day, while it is 85-95 litres for young growing heifers and 20-25 litres for adult sheep. Feeding Harit Dhara can reduce these by a fifth.

7. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Centre has told the Delhi High Court that social media giant Twitter Inc has failed to comply with India's new IT Rules (Came into force on 26th May), which is law of the land and is mandatorily required to be complied with.

Implications:

Any non-compliance amounts to breach of provisions of IT Rules, leading to Twitter losing its immunity as an "intermediary".

A loss of its intermediary status, which provides its immunity from liabilities over any third-party data hosted by it, makes it liable for criminal action in case of complaints.

What the rules say?

Twitter Inc is admittedly an 'intermediary' within the meaning of Section 2(1)(w) of IT Act, 2000, and an SSMI (Significant Social Media Intermediary) under the IT Rules 2021.

SSMIs are required to appoint a chief compliance officer, a nodal officer, and a grievance officer — all

whom are required to be residents of India, according to the IT rules.

Background:

On February 25, the Centre framed the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021, in the exercise of powers under section 87 (2) of the Information Technology Act, 2000 and in supersession of the earlier Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2011, which will come into effect from May 26.

8. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

A Russian Soyuz rocket carrying 36 UK telecommunication and internet satellites blasted off from the Vostochny cosmodrome in Russia's Far East. The launch was carried out by Arianespace, the world's leading satellite launch company.

9. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry has initiated a project on Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). The task has been assigned to Quality Council of India (QCI). ONDC aims at promoting open networks developed on open sourced methodology, using open specifications and open network protocols independent of any specific platform. ONDC is expected to digitize the entire value chain, standardize operations, promote inclusion of suppliers, derive efficiencies in logistics and enhance value for consumers.

10. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

A policy document from the National Mission for Clean Ganga has instructed Cities situated on river banks to incorporate river conservation plans when they prepare their Master Plans. The recommendations are currently for towns that are on the main stem of the Ganga. There are 97 towns encompassing five States — Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal.

Some of the norms emphasised in the policy document are Clarifying land ownership issue, restrictions on the Floor Area Ratio, increasing green cover in the vicinity of the river by creating green buffers, removing concrete structures and employing green infrastructure. Facilitating the use of state-of-the-art technologies for river management – Satellite-based monitoring of water quality; Big data for river-health monitoring and Drones & AI for riverine biodiversity & floodplain mapping.

What is the National Mission for Clean Ganga(NMCG)?

The National Ganga Council, also known as the National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection, and Management of River Ganga was set up in 2016. It replaced the National River Ganga Basin Authority

(NRGBA). NGRBA was constituted under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act (EPA),1986. The National Ganga Council, chaired by Prime Minister, has been given overall responsibility for the superintendence of pollution prevention and rejuvenation of River Ganga Basin, including Ganga and its tributaries. National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) is the implementation arm of national Ganga Council. NMCG is registered as a society in 2011 under the Societies Registration Act 1860.

The aims and objectives of NMCG are:

To ensure effective control of pollution and rejuvenation of the river Ganga by adopting a river basin approach to promote inter-sectoral coordination for comprehensive planning and management. To maintain minimum ecological flows in the river Ganga with the aim of ensuring water quality and environmentally sustainable development.