



# EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 10-06-2021

### EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Recently, the Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region has asked for suggestions for the Devika River project in Udhampur, J&K. This project is compared with the Namami Gange Project.

About Devika River project This is a Rs. 190 crore Project. The work on the project was started in March 2019 under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP). Under the project, Bathing “ghats” (places) on the banks of the Devika River will be developed, Encroachments will be removed Natural water bodies will be restored Catchment areas will be developed along with cremation ground Small hydropower plants and three solar power plants shall also be developed. The project will lead to reduction in pollution and improvement in water quality. About Devika River Devika river originates from the hilly Suddha Mahadev temple in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir. It flows down towards western Punjab (now in Pakistan) where it merges with the Ravi river. The river holds religious significance as it is revered by Hindus as the sister of river Ganga. In June 2020, Devika Bridge was inaugurated in Udhampur.

2. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

The World Environment Day was observed on 5th June, 2021. Objective of the day: Encouraging worldwide awareness and action to protect our environment. Theme for 2021: “REIMAGINE. RECREATE. RESTORE” with focus on ecosystem restoration (to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems on every continent and in every ocean). Every World Environment Day has a different host country, where the official celebrations take place. Host for 2021 is Pakistan. The Prime Minister of India released the “Report of the Expert Committee on Road Map for ethanol blending in India 2020-2025“. Government has resolved to meet the target of 20% ethanol blending in petrol by 2025. He also launched the ambitious E-100 pilot project in Pune for the production and distribution of ethanol across the country.

3. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

The Maharashtra government has decided to implement the Maharashtra Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (MAPS) with the objective of providing employment and training to the youth of the state.

4. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The theme of UN World Oceans Day 2021 is 'The Ocean: Life & Livelihoods'.

5. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Union Home Ministry has clarified that migrants belonging to six non-Muslim minority communities from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh, while applying for long-term visas (LTVs), can also produce National Population Register (NPR) enrolment slips as proof of the duration of their stay in India.

Background:

The NPR number is part of an illustrative list of more than 10 documents that could be provided to apply for an LTV, which is a precursor to acquiring Indian citizenship either by naturalisation or registration under Section 5 and 6 of the Citizenship Act, 1955, for the six communities — Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Parsis, Christians and Buddhists — from the three countries. The special provision of LTVs for Hindus and Sikhs from Pakistan and Afghanistan was first made in 2011.

What are LTVs?

For foreigners of non-Indian origin, a longer-term visa is classed as one that permits the holder to stay in India for longer than 180 days (six months) continuously. The main visas that provide this are the Employment, Entry and Student visas.

Benefits of LTV:

People belonging to minority communities from neighbouring countries having LTVs are allowed to purchase a small house for their family and can even establish a business. They are eligible to obtain Aadhaar card, PAN card and driving licences. The LTV also allows them to buy property.

6. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Ministry of Education has released the Performance Grading Index for 2019-20.

About the Performance Grading Index:

PGI is a tool to grade all States and UTs on their performance across 70 indicators on school education.

First published in 2019 with reference year 2017-18. The Indicators have been grouped into 2 Categories – Outcomes and Governance & Management with 4 Domains under the first category and 1 under the second. Objective: To encourage States & UTs to adopt best practices like online recruitment and transfer of teachers, electronic attendance of students & teachers. Significance: Grading system assists the States & UTs to identify gaps and design appropriate interventions to bridge them.

Latest findings:

Punjab, Chandigarh, Tamil Nadu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Kerala occupy the highest grade A++ in 2019-20. Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan, Puducherry, Dadra and Nagar Haveli are in the A+ category. Punjab has scored the maximum points for governance and management.

Bihar and Meghalaya have scored the lowest in terms of infrastructure and facilities.

7. Ans:A

Explanation:

A study was conducted recently to study the real-world effectiveness of vaccination in India. It was conducted on healthcare workers (HCW).

For the study, 515 healthcare workers from 13 States and covering 22 cities were evaluated from January to May 2021.

Key findings:

Covishield vaccine produced more antibodies than Covaxin.

Seropositivity rates to anti-spike antibodies were significantly higher in Covishield recipients compared to Covaxin after the first dose.

Responder rate and median (IQR) rise in anti-spike antibody were significantly higher in Covishield vs. Covaxin recipient.

What are vaccines?

Vaccines train our immune system to fight a disease-causing agent, which has not yet affected a person. They prepare the body for future protection.

How do they work?

Vaccines are known to have a component called antigen, which is usually a part of the pathogen against which the vaccine is being developed. The role of antigen, once inside the human body, is to activate the immune system in order to develop protective antibodies, without having any ability to cause the full-fledged disease. This way, once a person is fully vaccinated, he or she develops antibodies and remains protected. Covishield vs Covaxin:

Covishield (the vaccine by Oxford University-AstraZeneca) is based on the viral-vectored platform.

Covaxin (jointly developed by Bharat Biotech and the Indian Council of Medical Research), is an inactivated vaccine. What are Viral-vectored vaccines?

A vector, in infectious disease biology, is what works as a vehicle to transport a disease-causing agent.

For example, mosquitoes are the vector of malaria, a disease caused by a parasite called plasmodium.

In viral-vectored vaccines, a virus is used to carry the target antigen gene into human cells. There are many such viral vectors, which have different advantages. The most widely known are the adenovirus vectors, which cause very mild colds or asymptomatic infections in humans. Covishield uses a chimpanzee adenovirus (AZD1222 or ChAdOx1), which carries the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein. The

chimpanzee adenovirus has been used because humans will not have pre-existing antibodies to this adenovirus.

What are Inactivated or killed vaccines?

Pathogens (viruses or bacteria) that cannot multiply cannot cause disease. So inactivating a virus or bacteria, using chemicals like formalin, can convert them into a safe immunogen. Because inactivated viruses or bacteria do not multiply, we may need to use multiple doses of the vaccine and also give another substance to improve the immune response — this is called an adjuvant. The most common adjuvant is the alum but shark oil suspensions and a few others are also used. A number of vaccines developed in China, and Covaxin in India are on the inactivated platform.

8. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The head of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons told the UN Security Council that its experts have investigated 77 allegations against Syria, and concluded that in 17 cases chemical weapons were likely or definitely used.

Background:

Syria was pressed to join the Chemical Weapons Convention in September 2013 by its close ally Russia after a deadly chemical weapons attack that the West blamed on Damascus.

About OPCW:

It is an international organization established by the Chemical Weapons Convention, 1997 to implement and enforce the terms of the non-proliferation treaty, which prohibits the use, stockpiling, or transfer of chemical weapons by signatory states. By the 2001 Relationship Agreement between the OPCW and the United Nations, the OPCW reports on its inspections and other activities to the UN through the office of the Secretary General. The organisation was awarded the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize “for its extensive efforts to eliminate chemical weapons”.

Powers:

The OPCW is authorized to perform inspections to verify that signatory states are complying with the convention. The Chemical Weapons Convention prohibits:

Developing, producing, acquiring, stockpiling, or retaining chemical weapons. The direct or indirect transfer of chemical weapons. Chemical weapons use or military preparation for use. Assisting, encouraging, or inducing other states to engage in CWC-prohibited activity. The use of riot control agents “as a method of warfare.”

9. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

On June 4, 1989 Chinese troops cracked down on pro-democracy protesters around Beijing’s Tiananmen

Square. No official death toll has ever been released, but rights groups estimate hundreds, if not thousands were killed. The protests were primarily student-led demonstrations calling for democracy, free speech and a free press in China. 32nd anniversary of the event was observed recently.

10. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Ladakh Lt Governor has launched the YounTab scheme for students in the Union Territory to encourage digital learning. Under the scheme, 12,300 tablets with pre-loaded online and offline content, including textbooks, video lectures and online class applications, would be distributed to government school students from Class 6th to 12th.