



# EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 16-06-2021

### EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Recently, the World Bank has released its June 2021 Global Economic Prospects. It has forecast India's GDP growth to be 8.3% for the year 2021-22. India's economy is expected to grow at 7.5% for 2022-23 and 6.5% for 2023-24. Key findings of the report: The world economy is expected to expand at 5.6%, the fastest post-recession growth rate in eighty years. However, global output will still be 2% below pre-pandemic projections by year-end. India's recovery is being hampered by the largest outbreak of any country since the beginning of the pandemic. The forecast for FY22 (8.3%) takes into account expected economic damage from an enormous second Covid-19 wave and localised mobility restrictions since March 2021. For 2022-23, growth is expected to slow to 7.5% as a result of the pandemic's effects on the financial position of households, companies and banks.

Suggestions by the report

Globally coordinated efforts are essential to accelerate vaccine distribution and debt relief, particularly for low-income countries. Policymakers need to address the pandemic's lasting effects. They need to take steps to stimulate green, resilient, and inclusive growth. Major Reports by the World Bank

- Ease of Doing Business.
- Human Capital Index.
- World Development Report.
- Migration and Development Brief.
- Global Economic Prospects.

2. Ans:A

Explanation:

Odisha has announced a cash reward of Rs 1,000 for rescuing gharials, a critically endangered crocodile species, and informing wildlife personnel. It will also provide compensation to fishermen, whose fishing nets are destroyed by gharials.

Key facts:

The gharial is listed in schedule 1 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and also described as critically endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species.

They are genetically weaker than salt water crocodiles and muggers.

3. Ans:D

Explanation:

The Supreme Court has asked the West Bengal government to implement the One Nation One Ration Card scheme “immediately” to help beneficiaries, especially migrant workers, to avail of subsidised food commodities from anywhere in the country.

Apart from West Bengal, Assam, Chhattisgarh and Delhi are the other states yet to implement it.

Background:

The court is hearing a suo motu (registered on its own motion) case pertaining to “problems and miseries of migrant workers”.

About the scheme:

One Nation One Ration Card (RC) will ensure all beneficiaries especially migrants can access PDS across the nation from any PDS shop of their own choice. Benefits: no poor person is deprived of getting subsidised foodgrains under the food security scheme when they shift from one place to another. It also removes the chance of anyone holding more than one ration card to avail benefits from different states.

Significance: This will provide freedom to the beneficiaries as they will not be tied to any one PDS shop and reduce their dependence on shop owners and curtail instances of corruption.

Standard format of ‘one nation, one ration card’:

For national portability, the state governments have been asked to issue the ration card in bi-lingual format, wherein besides the local language, the other language could be Hindi or English. The states have also been told to have a 10-digit standard ration card number, wherein first two digits will be state code and the next two digits will be running ration card numbers. Besides this, a set of another two digits will be appended with ration card number to create unique member IDs for each member of the household in a ration card.

4. Ans:C

Explanation:

Pakistan’s National Assembly has passed the ICJ (Review and Re-consideration) Bill, 2020 to provide the right of appeal to death-row prisoner Kulbhushan Jadhav. The Bill is aimed at allowing Jadhav to have consular access in line with the International Court of Justice (ICJ)

What’s the issue?

Jadhav, a 51-year-old retired Indian Navy officer, was sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court on charges of espionage and terrorism in April 2017. India approached the ICJ against Pakistan for denial of consular access to Jadhav and challenging the death sentence. The Hague-based ICJ had ruled in July 2019 that Pakistan must undertake an “effective review and reconsideration” of the conviction and sentence of Jadhav and also to grant consular access to India without further delay.

Independence of judges:

Unlike other organs of international organizations, the Court is not composed of representatives of governments. Members of the Court are independent judges whose first task, before taking up their duties, is to make a solemn declaration in open court that they will exercise their powers impartially and conscientiously.

Jurisdiction and Functioning:

ICJ acts as a world court with two fold jurisdiction i.e. legal disputes between States submitted to it by them (contentious cases) and requests for advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by United Nations organs and specialized agencies (advisory proceedings). Only States which are members of the United Nations and which have become parties to the Statute of the Court or which have accepted its jurisdiction under certain conditions, are parties to contentious cases. The judgment is final, binding on the parties to a case and without appeal (at the most it may be subject to interpretation or, upon the discovery of a new fact, revision).

5. Ans:A

Explanation:

A mobile application devoted to Yoga named as “Namaste Yoga”, has been launched by Ministry of AYUSH. The Namaste Yoga” app has been designed as an information platform for the public, with the aim to raise awareness about yoga and make it accessible for the larger community.

6. Ans:B

Explanation:

Following the steps of NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA), is now developing its own probe to study Venus, for holistic view of planet from its inner core to upper atmosphere.. The mission dubbed as EnVision, will probably be launched to the planet in the early 2030.

7. Ans:B

Explanation:

The Maharashtra Cabinet has passed an action plan to protect and preserve trees older than 50 years in urban areas by terming them heritage trees

Few important criteria for considering a tree as a “heritage tree” are: size, shape, rarity, aesthetical/historical values, association with historic person, place or even myths.

A certain species need not be native to an area for this tag.

8. Ans:A

Explanation:

The central government has released an expert committee report on the Roadmap for Ethanol Blending in

India by 2025. The roadmap proposes a gradual rollout of ethanol-blended fuel to achieve E10 fuel supply by April 2022 and phased rollout of E20 from April 2023 to April 2025. The Government of India has advanced the target for 20% ethanol blending in petrol (also called E20) to 2025 from 2030.

What is Ethanol?

It is one of the principal Biofuels.

It is naturally produced by the fermentation of sugars by yeasts or via petrochemical processes such as ethylene hydration.

Recommendations of the Roadmap:

Notify Ethanol Blending Roadmap

Better Infrastructure for Oil Marketing Companies

Speed up regulatory clearances

Incentivise Ethanol Blended Vehicle

Lower pricing of ethanol blended Gasoline.

9. Ans:B

Explanation:

Recently, the Union Education Minister announced the release of the report of All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2019-20. The Report provides key performance indicators on the current status of Higher education in India. It is released annually by the Department of Higher Education.

Key findings of the report

In the last five years from 2015-16 to 2019-20, there has been a growth of 11.4% in student enrolment.

Uttar Pradesh has highest student enrolment in India (49.1% male and 50.9% female) followed by Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra

Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) increased by a minuscule 0.8% in 2019-20.

GER is the number of students enrolled in a given level of education, regardless of age, There has been overall increase of over 18% in female enrolment. However, share of girl students is lowest in institutes of national importance while female participation in professional courses is lower as compared to academic courses. Humanities, Science, Commerce, Engineering & Technology, Medical Science and IT & Computer were six major fields chosen by students.

Recent Initiatives in Education

National Education Policy (NEP), 2020: It aims at increasing the GER in higher education to 50% by 2035. Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC): It aims at improving the research ecosystem by research collaborations between Indian institutions and the best institutions in the world. Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA): It aims at providing strategic funding to higher educational institutions. Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (PMRF).

10. Ans:C

Explanation:

To help out horticulturists who face crop damage due to hailstorms, the Himachal Pradesh government will be testing the use of indigenously developed 'anti-hail guns'. The indigenous guns have been developed by IIT Bombay along with Dr Y S Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry at Nauni (Solan).

About the anti-hail gun An anti-hail gun is a machine which generates shock waves to disrupt the growth of hailstones in clouds. It comprises a tall, fixed structure somewhat resembling an inverted tower, several metres high, with a long and narrow cone opening towards the sky. The gun is "fired" by feeding an explosive mixture of acetylene gas and air into its lower chamber, which releases a shock wave (Shock waves travel faster than the speed of sound, such as those produced by supersonic aircraft). These shock waves supposedly stop water droplets in clouds from turning into hailstones, so that they fall simply as raindrops.

Important value additions

Hail is solid precipitation made of balls or irregular lumps of ice, each of which is called a hailstone.

Hailstones consist mostly of water ice and measure between 5 mm and 15 cm in diameter. Any thunderstorm, which produces hail that reaches the ground, is termed a hailstorm. Maharashtra is India's most hailstorm-prone state, according to an IMD analysis of hailstorms across the country between 1981 and 2015.