



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 18-09-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (d)

Prior to the creation of SCO in 2001, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan were members of the Shanghai Five. Shanghai Five (1996) emerged from a series of border demarcation and demilitarization talks which the four former Soviet republics held with China to ensure stability along the borders. Following the accession of Uzbekistan to the organisation in 2001, the Shanghai five was renamed the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). India and Pakistan became members in 2017. Iran is the ninth and the newest member of SCO. India was made an observer at the SCO in 2005 and has generally participated in the ministerial-level meetings of the grouping which focus mainly on security and economic cooperation in the Eurasian region.

2. Ans) (c)

Assam has become the first state to adopt the Model Tenancy Act. With this Assam Urban Areas Rent Control Act, 1972 gets repealed. The Union Cabinet, in June 2021, approved the Model Tenancy Act (MTA). States and Union territories can now adopt the Model Tenancy Act by enacting fresh legislation or they can amend their existing rental laws suitably.

3. Ans) (d)

15th Edition of Indo – Nepal Joint Military Training, Exercise Surya Kiran between Indian Army and Nepali Army commenced at Pithoragarh (UK). This joint military training will go a long way in improving bilateral relations and also will be a major step towards further strengthening the traditional friendship between the two nations. Last edition of Exercise Surya Kiran was conducted in Nepal in 2019.

4. Ans) (c)

Meghalaya today became the first state in the country to implement the India Enterprise Architecture (IndEA) with the launch of the 'MeghEA- Meghalaya Enterprise Architecture', a framework to implement integrated digital service system in governance. IndEA (by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) is a framework that enables the development and implementation of Enterprise Architectures independently and in parallel by all governments and their agencies across India, conforming to the same models and standards.

5. Ans) (b)

India has developed an indigenous technology to convert high ash Indian coal to methanol and established its first pilot plant in Hyderabad. This technology developed by BHEL will help the country move towards the adoption of clean technology and promote the use of methanol as a transportation fuel (blending with petrol), thus reducing crude oil imports. This pilot-scale project with a methanol generation capacity of 0.25 metric tons per day has been initiated by NITI Aayog and funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) under Clean Energy Research Initiative.

6. Ans) (c)

NITI Aayog is collaborating with BYJU's to provide education to children in 112 aspirational districts. Aspirational districts are those which refer to India's most developmentally challenged districts across sectors including education, healthcare, basic infrastructure and finance and are present in states such as Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Karnataka, Sikkim, and others. This programme will identify and provide high-quality test prep coaching to 3,000 meritorious students of classes 11 and 12 who wish to appear for NEET and JEE.

7. Ans) (c)

The theme for 12th edition of World Bamboo Day 2021 is '#PlantBamboo: It Is Time to Plant Bamboo'

8. Ans) (d)

The Pulitzer Prize-winning noted fiction writer, Jhumpa Lahiri, is set to launch her new book titled 'Translating Myself and Others', which will highlight her work as a translator.

9. Ans) (a)

The Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) is an international treaty of the World Trade Organization (WTO). It was negotiated during the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and entered into force with the establishment of the WTO on January 1, 1995. G-33 Virtual Informal Ministerial Meeting was recently held. In the meeting, the Indian commerce and industry ministry has pointed out that the agreement is riddled with deep imbalances, which favour the developed countries and have tilted the rules against many developing countries.

The G33 (or the Friends of Special Products in agriculture) is a coalition of developing countries. It was established prior to the 2003 Cancun ministerial conference. The group has coordinated during the Doha Round of WTO negotiations, specifically in regard to agriculture. Dominated by India, the group seeks to limit the degree of market opening required of developing countries, especially with regard to agriculture. There are currently 47 member nations.

10. Ans) (c)

As per the ASI, the stairs led to a structural temple built during the Gupta period. The team discovered two decorative pillars close to one another, with human figurines. These two pillars were flat rectangular pillars, placed parallel and facing the same direction, and the front faces showed images of the yakshas, ganas, and various geometrical motifs.