



# EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 09-10-2020

### EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Mumbai police is looking into a scam about manipulation of TRPs (Television Rating Points) by rigging the devices used by the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) India, which has the mandate to measure television audience in India. TRPs represent how many people, from which socio-economic categories, watched which channels for how much time during a particular period. Methodology:

This could be for an hour, a day, or even a week; India follows the international standard of one minute. The data is usually made public every week. For calculating TRP, BARC has installed “BAR-O-meters” in over 45,000 empanelled households. These households are classified into 12 categories under the New Consumer Classification System (NCCS)

Importance of TRPs:

Television ratings in turn influence programmes produced for the viewers. Better ratings would promote a programme while poor ratings will discourage a programme. TRPs are the main currency for advertisers to decide which channel to advertise on by calculating the cost-per-rating-point (CPRP). BARC?

It is an industry body jointly owned by advertisers, ad agencies, and broadcasting companies, represented by The Indian Society of Advertisers, the Indian Broadcasting Foundation and the Advertising Agencies Association of India. Though it was created in 2010, the I&B Ministry notified the Policy Guidelines for Television Rating Agencies in India in 2014 and registered BARC in July 2015 under these guidelines, to carry out television ratings in India.

2. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

New Development Bank, also known as BRICS Bank has approved infrastructure projects worth 741 million dollars in India. Its Board of Directors approved a loan of USD 500 million for the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) Project and a loan of USD 241 million for Mumbai Metro Rail II (Line 6) Project. The loan for Delhi NCR region would be used by Government of India for on-lending to the National Capital Region Transport Corporation Limited (NCRTC) for construction of a rapid rail corridor connecting the NCT of Delhi with the cities of Ghaziabad and Meerut in Uttar Pradesh. The loan for Mumbai Metro will be used by the Government of India for on-lending to the Government of the State of Maharashtra for implementing a metro rail Line 6 with length of about 14.47 km in the city of Mumbai. The Project will be implemented by the Mumbai Metropolitan Region

Development Authority. New Development Bank (NDB), the Shanghai based bank, was established by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa to mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS countries and other emerging economies

3. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

World Post Day is celebrated each year on 9 October, the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern. It was declared World Post Day by the UPU Congress held in Tokyo, Japan in 1969. The proposal was submitted by Shri Anand Mohan Narula, a member of the Indian delegation. Since then, World Post Day has been celebrated all over the world to highlight the importance of the postal services. The Universal Postal Union is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) that coordinates postal policies among member nations, in addition to the worldwide postal system. It also oversees the Telematics and Express Mail Service (EMS) cooperatives.

It was established in 1874 by the Treaty of Bern.

The UPU's headquarters are located in Bern, Switzerland.

It's Parent organization is United Nations Economic and Social Council.

4. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Union Environment Minister has said that the Pusa Decomposer will be used on a trial basis this year in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. The burning of paddy stubble left in the fields after harvest has been a cause of concern for the past several years as it contributes to air pollution in the northern Gangetic plains and its already polluted cities like Delhi. It is a common practice in October and November across North West India, but primarily in Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh to quickly clear crop residue from their fields before planting the rabi wheat crop.

Pusa Decomposer:

To tackle the issue 'Pusa Decomposer' capsule has been developed by Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI). 'Pusa Decomposer' is essentially a fungi-based liquid solution that can soften hard stubble to the extent that it can be easily mixed with soil in the field to act as compost. This would then rule out the need to burn the stubble, and also help in retaining the essential microbes and nutrients in soil that are otherwise damaged when the residue is burned. There are seven strains of fungi that IARI has identified after research which help in rapid breakdown of hard stubble. These seven strains of fungi are packed into four capsules.

5. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Indian Air Force celebrated the 88th Air Force Day on October 8. October 8 is celebrated as the Air Force Day because on this day, the Air Force in India was officially raised in 1932 as the supporting force of the Royal Air Force of the United Kingdom. The first operational squadron came into being in April 1933. After participation in World War II, the Air Force in India came to be called the Royal Indian Air Force in the mid 1940s. In 1950, after the republic came into being it became the Indian Air Force. From six officers and 19 Hawai Sepoys back in 1933, the Air Force now is the fourth largest in the world.

6. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has enhanced the allocation of funds for expenditure under Special Accelerated Road Development Programme in North Eastern Areas (SARDP-NE) related works during the current financial year. Government of India has undertaken massive road development programme under SARDP-NE Scheme in NE Region. The scope of the programme has been enlarged from time to time, since September, 2005. Under SARDP-NE (Phase –A and Arunachal Pradesh), 6418 km (5998 km actual design length) has already been identified for development at an estimated investment of about Rs. 30,450 crore, out of which 3356 km has been completed and 1961 km is under construction.

Objectives of SARDP-NE:

Upgrade National Highways connecting State Capitals to 2/ 4 lane

Improve roads of strategic importance in border area.

Improve connectivity to neighboring countries

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

7. Ans) (d)

Explanation

Using components of the CRISPR system, researchers can add, remove and alter specific DNA sequences. The 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry has been awarded to Emmanuelle Charpentier of France and Jennifer A Doudna of the USA for developing CRISPR/Cas9 genetic scissors. CRISPR technology replicates a natural defence mechanism in *Streptococcus pyogenes* (bacterium) that uses a similar method to protect itself from virus attacks. A DNA strand, when broken, has a natural tendency to repair itself but the auto-repair mechanism can lead to the re-growth of a problematic sequence. Scientists intervene during this auto-repair process by supplying the desired sequence of genetic codes, which replaces the original sequence.

8. Ans) (d)

Explanation

India ratified the Stockholm Convention in 2006 as per Article 25(4), which enabled it to keep itself in a default "opt-out" position such that amendments in various Annexes of the convention cannot be enforced on it unless an instrument of ratification/acceptance/approval or accession is explicitly deposited with UN depositary. The convention calls to ban nine of the dirty dozen chemicals (key POPs), limit the use of DDT to malaria control, and curtail inadvertent production of dioxins and furans.

The convention listed twelve distinct chemicals in three categories:

Eight pesticides (aldrin, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, mirex and toxaphene)

Two industrial chemicals (poly chlorinated biphenyls and hexachlorobenzene)

Two unintended by-products of many industrial processes involving chlorine such as waste incineration, chemical and pesticide manufacturing and pulp and paper bleaching (poly chlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins and dibenzofurans, commonly referred to as dioxins and furans).

9. Ans) (c)

Explanation

Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) was approved by the government in March 2016 replacing New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). The new policy promises simpler rules, tax breaks, pricing and marketing freedom and is part of a government strategy to double oil and gas output by 2022-23. HELP provides for a uniform licensing system that will cover all hydrocarbons such as oil, gas, and coal bed methane. HELP provides for the revenue sharing model, the government will receive a share of the gross revenue from the sale of oil, and gas, etc and will not be concerned with the cost incurred.

HELP has marketing and pricing freedom. Before HELP, contracts were based on production sharing with possibility of gold plating (incorporation of costly and unnecessary features) the investment and causing loss to the government by 'manipulating profit'. To reduce the complexity of handling contracts, it was changed to revenue sharing. Under HELP, oil companies can select blocks of their choice under this Open Area Licensing (OAL) regime. Earlier it was the government which selected the blocks where oil exploration can be carried out. It will enable a faster coverage of the available geographical area.

10. Ans) (b)

Explanation

G-7 is a bloc of industrialized democracies i.e. France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, Japan, the United States, and Canada. Quad is a coalition between India, US, Australia and Japan to keep the critical sea routes in the Indo-Pacific free of any influence (especially China). RCEP is a partnership for free-trade comprising 10 ASEAN countries plus five ASEAN FTA partners- China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand. India dropped out of the RCEP in November 2019 at ASEAN+3 summit.

G4 is a group of countries that are seeking permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). It consists of India, Brazil, Japan and Germany.