



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 25-09-2020

1. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Winners of the prestigious Nobel prizes this year will receive an extra 1 million crowns (\$110,000), the head of the foundation which oversees the awards said. Prize money will increase to 10 million crowns this year. Dynamite inventor Alfred Nobel left around 31 million crowns - about 1.8 billion crowns in today's money according to the Foundation - to fund the prizes, which have been awarded since 1901. The prize amount has varied over time, starting at 150,000 crowns and reaching 1 million crowns in 1981. The value rose sharply in the 1980s and 1990s, jumping to 9 million crowns in 2000 and 10 million a year later. But the global credit crunch of 2008-9 hit the Foundation's investments. The prize money was cut to 8 million crowns in 2012 only to rise again to 9 million in 2017. The Nobel Foundation is a private institution founded in 1900 to manage the finances and administration of the Nobel Prizes. The Foundation is based on the last will of Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite. It is headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden.

2. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Veteran atomic scientist and former chairman of Atomic Energy Commission Dr Sekhar Basu succumbed to COVID-19. He was 68. A mechanical engineer, Dr Basu is revered for his contributions to the country's atomic energy programme. He was awarded Padma Shri in 2014. He had also pioneered the highly complex reactor for India's first nuclear-powered submarine INS Arihant. The Atomic Energy Commission is the governing body of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Government of India.

The Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Atomic Energy is ex-officio Chairman of the Commission.

3. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

TIME Magazine's list of '100 Most Influential People of 2020' includes five Indians who have made waves in the last one year.

Indians in the list:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been featured in TIME Magazine's annual list of the world's 100 most influential people for the fourth time since he took office in 2014. He was named under the category of 'Leaders'. Professor Ravindra Gupta spearheaded a study that led to the second man in history being

cured of HIV in London, last year. He is a professor of clinical microbiology at the Cambridge University. He is in the list under the 'Pioneers' category. Alphabet and Google CEO Sundar Pichai is in the list under the category of 'Titans'. Ayushmann Khurrana was the only Indian actor to make it to the list this year. He was named under the 'Artist' category. The 82-year-old Bilkis Bano, who came to be known as the "Dadi of Shaheen Bagh", was a defining presence at the prolonged protest against Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) at the small neighbourhood of Shaheen Bagh in southeast Delhi. She is in the list under the category of 'Icons'.

4. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Age Appropriate Fitness Protocols on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Fit India Movement. The Youth Ministry and Health Ministry together released Fitness protocols. Age Appropriate Fitness Protocols have been envisaged for three age groups: 5 – 18, 18 – 65 and above 65. On the occasion, PM Modi gave the mantra — fitness ka dose, adha ghanta roz (Fitness dose, Half an hour everyday) for everyone's health. He urged everyone to practice yoga, or badminton, tennis or football, karate or kabaddi for at least 30 minutes daily. The Fit India Movement was launched by PM Modi on August 29, 2019, has seen a collective participation of more than 3.5 crore Indians in various events.

5. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has notified the Standards for Safety Evaluation of vehicles being propelled by Hydrogen Fuel Cells. The Standards were notified through an amendment to Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989. This would facilitate the promotion of Hydrogen Fuel Cell based vehicles in the country which are energy efficient and environment friendly. These standards are also at par with the available international standards. the motor vehicles of Category M and Category N, running on compressed gaseous hydrogen fuel cell, shall be in accordance with AIS 157:2020, as amended from time to time, till the corresponding Bureau of Indian Standard Act, 2016, specification is notified. Also, the hydrogen fuel specification for fuel cell vehicles will be in accordance with ISO 14687.

6. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has launched "Chunauti"- Next Generation Startup Challenge Contest.

Aims and Objectives:

To further boost startups and software products with special focus on Tier-II towns of India. Identify

around 300 startups working in identified areas and provide them seed fund of upto Rs. 25 Lakh and other facilities. Under this challenge the Ministry of Electronics and IT will invite startups in the following areas of work:

Edu-Tech, Agri-Tech & Fin-Tech Solutions for masses.

Supply Chain, Logistics & Transportation Management.

Infrastructure & Remote monitoring.

Medical Healthcare, Diagnostic, Preventive & Psychological Care.

Jobs & Skilling, Linguistic tools & technologies.

7. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

India climbed four spots on the Global Innovation Index 2020 and is now at 48th position in the list of top 50 innovative countries in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) annual ranking. India occupied the 52nd position in 2019 and was ranked 81st in the year 2015. India is at the top position among the nations in central and southern Asia. India has now become the third most innovative lower middle-income economy in the world. Switzerland, Sweden, US, UK and Netherlands are in the top spots of this year's ranking The India Innovation Index, which was released last year by the NITI Aayog, has been widely accepted as the major step in the direction of decentralization of innovation across all the states of India.

8. Ans) (d)

Explanation : The Union Cabinet recently approved 'Mission Karmayogi', a new capacity-building scheme for civil servants aimed at upgrading the post-recruitment training mechanism of the officers and employees at all levels. Mission Karmayogi programme will be delivered by setting up a digital platform called iGOTKarmayogi. The platform will act as a launchpad for the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB), which will enable a comprehensive reform of the capacity building apparatus at the individual, institutional and process levels. Also, there will be a Capacity Building Commission, which will include experts in related fields and global professionals. This commission will prepare and monitor annual capacity building plans and audit human resources available in the government.

9. Ans) (d)

Explanation

Brucellosis is a bacterial disease caused by various Brucella species, which mainly infect cattle, swine, goats, sheep and dogs. Humans generally acquire the disease through direct contact with infected animals, by eating or drinking contaminated animal products, or by inhaling airborne agents. The majority of cases

are caused by ingesting unpasteurized milk or cheese from infected goats or sheep. However, Person to person transmission is rare. The disease causes flu-like symptoms, including fever, weakness, malaise and weight loss. Recently, Brucella abortus S19Δ per vaccine” has been developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research’s -Indian Veterinary Research Institute (ICAR-IVRI) for brucellosis prevention in the dairy sector.

10. Ans) (b)

Explanation

The magnitude of the Sun's solar activity is decreasing. This period of decreased solar activity is known as the Modern Grand Solar Minimum that will last from 2020 to 2053. The surface temperatures on Earth may go down during the Modern Grand Solar Minimum due to a 70% reduction in solar magnetic activity. Variations in solar irradiance lead to heating of the upper layer of the Earth's atmosphere and influences the transport of solar energy towards the planet's surface. It is possible that the cooling due to solar minimum may offset the rising temperatures due to global warming. However, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has dismissed this and said the decrease in climate crisis would only be worth as much as three years of carbon dioxide growth in the atmosphere. According to NASA, the impact of global warming would be six times greater than the cooling caused by the Grand Solar Minimum.