



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 01-07-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans (c)

Explanation:

Launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MoHUPA) in Mission mode. It envisions provision of Housing for All by 2022, when the Nation completes 75 years of its Independence.

The Mission seeks to address the housing requirement of urban poor including slum dwellers through following programme verticals:

Slum rehabilitation of Slum Dwellers with participation of private developers using land as a resource. Promotion of Affordable Housing for weaker sections through credit linked subsidy. Affordable Housing in Partnership with Public & Private sectors. Subsidy for beneficiary-led individual house construction /enhancement. Credit linked subsidy component will be implemented as a Central Sector Scheme while other three components will be implemented as Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS). Ownership of houses: Houses are to be allotted in the name of adult female members or in joint name and all houses to have toilet facility, drinking water and power supply. Preference is given to persons with disabilities, ST/ SC/ OBCs, minorities and transgender.

Achievements:

A total of 1.12 crore houses have been sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (U), of which 82.5 lakh houses have been grounded and around 48 lakh have been completed.

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Gujarat Prohibition Act, 1949 is being challenged before the Gujarat High Court, more than seven decades after it came into effect as the Bombay Prohibition Act.

The Gujarat Prohibition Act, 1949:

Introduced by the then Bombay province as Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949 to overhaul the law relating to intoxicating drugs and narcotics total prohibition. It is an Act relating to the promotion and enforcement of alcohol prohibition in the Bombay State. The Bombay state was divided into the states of Maharashtra and Gujarat in 1960. Gujarat adopted the prohibition policy in 1960 and subsequently chose to enforce it with greater rigidity. In 2011, it renamed the Act as Gujarat Prohibition Act. Please note, the first hint at the prohibition of liquor was through the Bombay Abkari Act, 1878. This Act dealt with levying of duties on intoxicants, among other things and aspects of prohibition via amendments made in 1939 and 1947.

Rationale behind this law:

The state government says that it is “committed to the ideals and principles of Mahatma Gandhi and firmly intends to eradicate the menace of drinking liquor.”

How does the act rule?

Under the Act, a permit is mandatory to purchase, possess, consume or serve liquor. The Act empowers the police to arrest a person for purchasing, consuming or serving alcohol without the permit with punishment ranging from three months to five years in prison.

What are the main grounds raised against prohibition of liquor and in favour of prohibition?

The right of privacy is violated, which was given voice by the Supreme Court in 2017 in Puttaswamy judgment. The Right is associated with the citizens’ right to eat and drink as per their choice. Ground of manifest arbitrariness: The law grants health permits and temporary permits to out-of-state tourists. The petition says there are no intelligible differences in the classes thus being created by the state on who gets to drink and who does not and violates the Right to Equality under Article 14 of the Constitution.

3. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Amazon has acquired an American instant messaging app ‘Wickr’ to offer secure communications for businesses, government agencies, and individuals, who are moving to hybrid work environments, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Wickr app has been acquired by Amazon.com Inc’s cloud computing unit Amazon Web Services (AWS), for an undisclosed amount.

4. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The results of India Smart Cities Awards Contest (ISAC) 2020 was released . The award was organised under Central Government’s Smart Cities Mission project, by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. Best City Award – Indore, Madhya Pradesh and Surat, Gujarat have jointly won the Best Smart Cities award 2020 for their overall development.

5. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

A new species of skittering frog has been identified from the surroundings of the Thattekkad bird sanctuary in Kerala.

6. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Recently, the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) based survey of forest areas in ten states was released recently. Ministry: Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate

change The 10 mapped states are: Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, and Tripura. The project was awarded to WAPCOS in July 2020 at a cost of over Rs. 18 crore for implementation in 26 states.

Key observations

It is a first of its kind study using LiDAR technology. It will help augment water and fodder in jungle areas thereby reducing human-animal conflict. States will be given Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) funds to use in this project. One major ridge inside a forest block is identified in these states with an average area of 10,000 ha selected in each State.

Significance of the study

It will help us in identifying areas which need groundwater recharge It will help in catching rainwater and prevent stream run-off It will help in recommending different types of Soil & Water conservation structures

About LiDAR

It is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure ranges & variable distances. These light pulses generate precise, three-dimensional information about the shape of the Earth and its surface characteristics. It consists of a laser, a scanner, and a specialized Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver. Applications:

Surveying, archaeology, geography, geomorphology, seismology, forestry, etc.

7. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Recently, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in its World Drug Report 2021, has highlighted that the lockdown restrictions during Covid-19 have accelerated drug trafficking using the Internet.

Key findings of the report

Between 2010-2019, the number of people using drugs increased by 22%, owing in part to an increase in the global population. Around 275 million people used drugs worldwide last year, while over 36 million people suffered from drug use disorders. Opioids continue to account for the largest burden of disease attributed to drug use.

A rise in the non-medical use of pharmaceutical drugs was also observed during the coronavirus pandemic. In the last 24 years, cannabis potency had increased as much as four times in some parts, even as the percentage of adolescents who perceived the drug as harmful fell by as much as 40%. Access to drugs has also become simpler than ever with online sales, and major drug markets on the dark web are now worth some \$315 million annually. In Asia, China and India are mainly linked to shipment of drugs sold on the 19 major darknet markets analysed over 2011-2020.

About United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

It was established in 1997 and was named as a United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in 2002. It acts as the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention by combining the United Nations International Drug Control Program (UNDCP) and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division of the United Nations Office at Vienna.

8. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

Recently, the Mumbai Police has arrested five people and seized nearly 9 kg of Ambergris. Ambergris (French for grey amber) is generally referred to as whale vomit. It is a solid waxy substance originating in the intestine of the sperm whale.

Ambergris is produced only by an estimated 1% of sperm whales. It is used in the perfume market, especially to create fragrances like musk. It is believed to be in high demand in countries like Dubai that have a large perfume market. It is also believed to be used in some traditional medicines and as a spice.

The sperm whale is a protected species, hunting of the whale is not allowed.

Sperm whales are found in temperate and tropical waters throughout the world. Protection Status: IUCN

Red List: Vulnerable

CITES: Appendix I

Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: schedule I

9. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

By building on a proud legacy of enterprise that spanned nearly two and a half centuries, India has acquired an exalted status on the global tea map.

The country is the second-largest tea producer in the world. India is also the world's largest consumer of black tea. India is ranked fourth in terms of tea exports in the world after Kenya, China and Sri Lanka.

India offers high-quality speciality teas, such as Darjeeling, Assam Orthodox and the high-range Nilgiris which have a distinct aroma, strength, colour and flavour.

10. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Iran's Parliament has said that it will never hand over images from inside of some Iranian nuclear sites to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as a monitoring agreement with the agency has expired.

IAEA and Tehran struck the three-month monitoring agreement in February to cushion the blow of Iran reducing its cooperation with the agency. The agreement was extended by a month on May 24.

2015 Nuclear Deal:

In 2015, Iran with the P5+1 group of world powers – the USA, UK, France, China, Russia, and Germany

agreed on a long-term deal on its nuclear programme. The deal was named as Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and in common parlance as Iran Nuclear Deal. Under the deal, Iran agreed to curb its nuclear activity in return for the lifting of sanctions and access to global trade. The agreement allowed Iran to accumulate small amounts of uranium for research but it banned the enrichment of uranium, which is used to make reactor fuel and nuclear weapons. Iran was also required to redesign a heavy-water reactor being built, whose spent fuel could contain plutonium suitable for a bomb and to allow international inspections.