



# EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 03-02-2021

### EXPLANATION

1. Ans: B

Explanation: Jarosite has been found in the ice cores that were extracted from Antarctica by a team of international researchers recently. Jarosite is a family of iron-hydroxy sulphate minerals generally occurring in acidic, sulfate-rich environments. These are also found in mining and ore processing wastes. As per the research, the end-member jarosite consists of potassium and has the chemical formula of  $KFe_3(SO_4)_2(OH)_6$ .

2. Ans: C

Explanation: In Nainital district of Uttarakhand, a first of its kind botanical garden named 'Shivalik Arboretum' has been inaugurated, for conserving over 210 species of trees found in the Shivalik range of Himalayas.

3. Ans: B

Explanation: Union Finance Minister proposed the imposition of Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC) during her Union Budget 2021 Presentation in the Parliament on February 1, 2021.

The Finance Minister announced Agriculture Infrastructure & Development Cess of Rs 2.5 per litre on petrol and Rs 4 per litre on diesel. The cess is not uniform and will vary from product to product.

The AIDC cess will be levied on other items including alcoholic beverages, Gold & silver Dore bars, Crude palm oil, crude soyabean oil, peas, kabuli chana, apples and Bengal gram etc.

All these items are mostly those that would not have a major impact on a huge part of the population.

4. Ans: B

Explanation: Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan' (PM-AASHA) is an umbrella scheme to ensure Minimum Support Price (MSP) to farmers. It comprises the erstwhile Price Support Scheme (PSS) with certain modifications and rolling out of new schemes of Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS) and pilot of Private Procurement and Stockist Scheme (PPSS). Under PM-AASHA, States/UTs are offered to choose either PSS and PDPS in a given procurement season with respect to particular oilseeds crop for the entire State. Pulses and Copra are procured under PSS.

5. Ans: B

Explanation: The World Wetlands Day is observed every year on February 2 globally. World Wetlands Day was first celebrated in 1997. 2021 marks 50 years of the Convention on Wetlands. The international theme for World Wetlands Day 2021 is 'Wetlands and Water'.

6. Ans: C

Explanation: The Vice President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the National Tribal Festival "Aadi Mahotsav" at Dilli Haat, INA, New Delhi. The Aadi Mahotsav 2021 is being organized from February 1-15, 2021. The festival aims to familiarise the people with the rich and diverse craft, the culture of the tribal communities across the country, in one place.

The Aadi Mahotsav – A Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Culture, Crafts, Cuisine and Commerce – is an annual initiative being organized by TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs since 2017.

The festival will comprise of display and sale of tribal art and craft, medicine & healers, cuisine and folk performances, in which around 1000 tribal artisans, artists and chefs from more than 20 States of the country shall participate and provide a glimpse of their rich traditional culture.

7. Ans: C

Explanation: Ministry of Education, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), and World Bank have signed an agreement for the financial support worth Rs 5718 crore towards the implementation of the Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) project.

About the Project:

STARS stands for Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program (STARS).

STARS project would be implemented as a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.

It is a project to improve the quality and governance of school education in six Indian states.

Six states are- Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan.

Some 250 million students (between the age of 6 and 17) in 1.5 million schools, and over 10 million teachers will benefit from the program.

8. Ans: B

Explanation: Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman presents first-ever paperless Budget.

According to Article 112 of the Indian Constitution, the Union Budget of a year is referred to as the Annual Financial Statement (AFS).

It is a statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government in a financial year. In addition to it, the Budget contains:

Estimates of revenue and capital receipts,

Ways and means to raise the revenue,

Estimates of expenditure,

Details of the actual receipts and expenditure of the closing financial year and the reasons for any deficit or surplus in that year, and

The economic and financial policy of the coming year, i.e., taxation proposals, prospects of revenue, spending programme and introduction of new schemes/projects.

9. Ans: D

Explanation: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has pegged the fiscal deficit for 2021-22 at 6.8% of the GDP and aims to bring it back below the 4.5% mark by 2025-26.

The original fiscal deficit target for 2020-21 was 3.5%. However, in reality, the deficit has shot up to a high of 9.5% of the GDP due to:

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Low revenue flows due to the lockdown.

Negative economic growth clubbed with high government spending to provide relief to vulnerable sections of society.

Fiscal deficit :

It is the difference between the Revenue Receipts plus Non-debt Capital Receipts (NDCR) and the total expenditure. In other words, fiscal deficit is “reflective of the total borrowing requirements of Government”

10. Ans: B

Explanation: Union Textiles Minister recently inaugurated the 8th edition of the India International Silk Fair virtually.

Key takeaways

- The fair is considered to be India’s biggest silk fair.
- It is the Sourcing Fair for silk and silk blend products.
- It is organised by Indian Silk Export Promotion Council
- Ministry of Textiles is the authorised Ministry.
- It is sponsored by Department of Commerce.
- India is the 2nd largest producer of Silk.
- India is the only country in the world that produces all four major varieties of silk i.e. Mulberry, Eri, Tassar, and Muga.
- Mulberry silk: Mainly in Karnataka
- Non-mulberry Silk: Temperate tussar silk in Maharashtra, WB, Odisha, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh; Tropical tussar silk in sub –himalayan belt ( Manipur, Assam, Meghalaya, etc); Muga Silk in Assam

and Eri silk in Assam, Odisha, Bihar

- India has around 11 Geographical Indications (GI) such as: Pochampally Ikat, Chanderpaul Silk, Mysore Silk, Kanchipuram Silk, Muga Silk, Salem Silk, Arni Silk, Champa Silk, Bhagalpur Silk, Banaras Brocade and Sarees, etc.