



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 21-06-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The 42nd session of the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Conference was held recently. For the first time ever, the FAO Conference is held in virtual mode.

About FAO:

It is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.

Headquarters: Rome, Italy. Founded: 16 October 1945. Goal of FAO: Their goal is to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.

Important reports and Programmes (Have a brief overview):

Global Report on Food Crises. Every two years, FAO publishes the State of the World's Forests. FAO and the World Health Organization created the Codex Alimentarius Commission in 1961 to develop food standards, guidelines and texts. In 1996, FAO organized the World Food Summit. The Summit concluded with the signing of the Rome Declaration, which established the goal of halving the number of people who suffer from hunger by the year 2015.

2. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

High-Level Dialogue on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD) was convened recently with the support of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to assess the progress made in fighting land degradation, and map the way forward on global efforts to revive and restore healthy land.

PM Modi is the President of the 14th Session of the Conference of Parties of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

About UNCCD:

Established in 1994. It is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management. It is the only convention stemming from a direct recommendation of the Rio Conference's Agenda 21. Focus areas: The Convention addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the drylands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found.

3. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

“Restoration. Land. Recovery. We build back better with healthy land”

4. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government said ‘Project O2 for India’ has been initiated to ensure supply of critical raw materials such as zeolites, setting up of small oxygen plants, and manufacturing of compressors.

5. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Recently, the 31st edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy was conducted in the Andaman sea close to the Strait of Malacca.

Aims:

To keep part of the Indian Ocean safe and secure for commercial shipping and international trade. To ensure effective implementation of the United Nations Conventions on Laws of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Other Military Exercises between India and Thailand:

Exercise MAITREE (Army). Exercise SIAM BHARAT (Air Force)

6. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

The Tulu speakers have been requesting the governments to give it official language status and include it in the eighth schedule to the Constitution. Tulu is a Dravidian language spoken mainly in the coastal districts Dakshina Kannada and Udupi of Karnataka and Kasaragod of Kerala.

Official language of the Union

Article 343 (1) state that Hindi written in the Devanagari Script is to be the official language of the Union. Official language Act, 1963 provides for use of English in addition to Hindi for all official purposes of Union and business transactions in Parliament. Constitution does not specify the official language of different states. Legislature of each state may adopt any one or more languages used in the state or Hindi as official language of the state. Until that is done, English will be used as official language of the state. Most States have adopted major regional language as the official language.

Inclusion in the 8th Schedule

At present, there is no such Criterion for languages to be included in 8th Schedule. Pahwa (1996) and Sitakant Mohapatra (2003) committees also failed to evolve any criteria.

List of 22 languages in 8th schedule Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, konkani,

Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri

Significance of inclusion under 8th Schedule Recognition as official language of the nation. Sahitya Academy will start recognising the language. Books would be translated into other recognised Indian languages. Mps and MLAs could speak in this language in Parliament and state assemblies Candidates could write all India competitive examinations like civil services exam in a scheduled language.

7. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

According to a recent report published in the SIPRI Yearbook 2021, the number of nuclear warheads which are ready and deployed have increased globally.

The SIPRI Yearbook is released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) which researches international armament and conflict.

Key highlights of the report

The overall number of warheads in global military stockpiles now appears to be increasing.

China is in the middle of a significant modernisation and expansion of its nuclear weapon inventory. India and Pakistan also appear to be expanding their nuclear arsenals. According to the year book, India possessed an estimated 156 nuclear warheads at the start of 2021 compared to 150 at the start of last year. The nine nuclear armed states – the U.S., Russia, the U.K., France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea. These countries together possessed an estimated 13,080 nuclear weapons at the start of 2021. Russia and the U.S. together possessed over 90% of global nuclear weapons. The five largest arms importers were: Saudi Arabia, India, Egypt, Australia and China. They together accounted for 36% of total arms imports.

8. An) (c)

Explanation:

The Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) and Ministry of Culture (MoC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for 'Cooperation in Development of National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal, Gujarat'.

9. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi virtually addressed the 5th edition of VivaTech. VivaTech is one of the largest digital and startup events of Europe, held in Paris every year since 2016. PM Modi was invited as a Guest of Honour to deliver the keynote address at VivaTech 2021, which has been organised from 16-19 June 2021 in Paris.

10. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament has decided its agenda for the following year. Because a consensus could not be built, the subject of vaccine production and distribution was not accepted as one of the agendas of the PAC for this year.

As per the panel's rules, no subject can be deliberated upon till there is a consensus among all members.

About PAC:

The PAC is formed every year with a strength of not more than 22 members of which 15 are from Lok Sabha and 7 from Rajya Sabha. The term of office of the members is one year. The Chairman is appointed by the Speaker of Lok Sabha. Since 1967, the chairman of the committee is selected from the opposition. Its chief function is to examine the audit report of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) after it is laid in the Parliament.

Historical Background:

It is the oldest of all House panels. The Committee on Public Accounts was first set up in 1921 in the wake of the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms.

Limitations of the Public Accounts Committee:

Broadly, it cannot intervene in the questions of policy. It can keep a tab on the expenses only after they are incurred. It has no power to limit expenses. It cannot intervene in matters of day-to-day administration. Any recommendation that the committee makes is only advisory. They can be ignored by the ministries. It is not vested with the power of disallowance of expenditures by the departments. Being only an executive body; it cannot issue an order. Only the Parliament can take a final decision on its findings.