



# EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 15-12-2020

### EXPLANATION

1. Ans: c

Explanation: The Geminids meteor shower, believed to be the strongest of the year, is active from December 4-December 20, with December 13 and 14 considered to be the best nights for viewing these meteor showers.

The Geminids meteor showers are unique because their origin does not lie in a comet, but what is believed to be an asteroid or an extinct comet. The Geminids emerge from 3200 Phaethon, which meteor scientists consider to be an asteroid.

NASA says that Geminids travel at a speed of 78,000 mph or 35 km/s, which is over 1000 times faster than a cheetah.

Meteors are best visible on a cloudless night and when the Moon is not extremely bright.

Meteors are bits of rock and ice that are ejected from comets as they manoeuvre around their orbits around the sun.

When a meteor reaches the Earth, it is called a meteorite and a series of meteorites, when encountered at once, is termed a meteor shower.

According to NASA, over 30 meteor showers occur annually and are observable from the Earth.

2. Ans: b

Explanation: The 'State of the Education Report for India 2020: Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)', was launched virtually today by UNESCO New Delhi, with over 400 attendees, including representatives from the government, civil society, academia, partners and youth.

The second edition of the State of Education Report focuses on technical and vocational education and training (TVET).

India has made considerable progress towards its goal of creating a skilled workforce of 110 million people by 2022, as stated in the National Policy of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (NPSDE), released in 2015. It is presently training 10 million youth annually through the many schemes that are on-going.

The Report outlines a set of ten recommendations that should be adopted to help achieve the stated vision for TVET in the country.

The ten recommendations are:

Place learners and their aspirations at the centre of vocational education and training programmes

Create an appropriate ecosystem for teachers, trainers and assessors

Focus on upskilling, re-skilling and lifelong learning

Ensure inclusive access to TVET for women, differently abled and disadvantaged learners Massively expand the digitalization of vocational education and training

Support local communities to generate livelihoods by engaging in the preservation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage

Align better with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Deploy innovative models of financing TVET

Expand evidence-based research for better planning and monitoring

Establish a robust coordinating mechanism for inter-ministerial cooperation

3. Ans: d

Explanation: The images of an Indian Bison, or Gaur, in Pune's urban landscape, the frenzy among people, the capture of the injured animal that ran around in panic, and the sad news of its death has put the spotlight on human-Gaur conflict in the country.

It is one of the largest extant bovines. It is one of the largest species among the wild cattle, reaching a shoulder height of up to 220 cm. Habitat: Gaurs are found on the forested hills and grassy areas of south to south east Asia.

**Distribution:**

They are found in India, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal.

The Western Ghats in southern India constitute one of the most extensive extant strongholds of gaur, in particular in the Wayanad – Nagarhole – Mudumalai – Bandipur complex.

The gaur is the State Animal of Goa and Bihar.

**Status:**

It is listed as Vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature(IUCN) Red List.

The Indian Government has included it in the Schedule I of the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972.

It is listed in CITES Appendix I.

4. Ans: a

Explanation: The first Trilateral Working Group (TWG) Meeting between India, Iran and Uzbekistan on the joint use of Chabahar Port was held. The Meeting was jointly chaired by Secretary (Shipping), Government of India, Deputy Minister of Transport, Uzbekistan and Deputy Transport Minister of Iran. during the meeting, the participants discussed joint use of Chabahar Port for trade and transit purposes and enhanced regional connectivity.

All sides also welcomed India's proposal to hold "Chabahar Day" on the side-lines of the International Maritime Summit scheduled to be hosted by India in January 2021.

The meeting was held as a follow up of decisions taken during the virtual summit held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of Uzbekistan on 11th of this month.

Chabahar Port is a seaport in Chabahar located in south-eastern Iran, on the Gulf of Oman. It serves as

Iran's only oceanic port, and consists of two separate ports named Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti.

The Port of Le Havre is the Port and port authority of the French city of Le Havre.

The Port of Mongla is the second busiest seaport of Bangladesh.

5. Ans: a

Explanation: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Gujarat on December 15, 2020 to lay foundation stones for several development projects in the state.

Hybrid Renewable Energy Park

Hybrid Renewable Energy Park is world's biggest Renewable Energy Park, being set up close to Indo Pak border, near Khavda village in Kutch district. It will produce 30 Giga watt solar and wind energy on a vast expanse of waste land situated beyond India bridge from Khavda village to Vighakot, where civilian access is not permitted and area is controlled by BSF and Indian Army.

**Desalination plant:**

The PM will also lay foundation stone virtually for a desalination plant coming up at Gundiyali village near Mandvi in Kutch district. This plant aims to convert sea water for potable purposes for a population 8 lakh of 300 villages. The desalination plant assumes great importance for Kutch peninsula which is perennial rain-deficit area with no other source of water. Fully automated milk processing of Sarhad dairy:

Prime Minister Modi will also lay foundation stone, virtually, for 130 crore rupees milk processing plant of Sarhad dairy, an apex dairy cooperative entity. This massive 2 lakh litre per day milk processing and packaging facility will come up under Rashtriya Kisan Vikas Yojna.

6. Ans: b

Explanation: Well-known aerospace scientist and Padma Vibhushan awardee Roddam Narasimha passed away. He was 87. A distinguished scientist, Mr. Narasimha held various positions at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. He was also the Director of the National Aerospace Laboratories.

Mr. Narasimha was a member of the Space Commission, Consultative Group of Eminent Senior Scientists, Government of India, and of the Bureau of the International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics.

7. Ans: a

Explanation: Recently, Myristica swamp treefrog has been recorded for the first time in Kerala's Thrissur district.

These are endemic to the Western Ghats. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

They are arboreal species (Pertaining to moving about, living in or among trees). The female digs the mud and lays eggs in shallow burrows in mud. After breeding and egg laying, they retreat back to the high canopies of the tree and remain elusive till the next breeding season. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

8. Ans: d

Explanation: Capital expenditure is the money spent by the government on the development of machinery, equipment, building, health facilities, education, etc.

It also includes the expenditure incurred on acquiring fixed assets like land and investment by the government that gives profits or dividend in future.

Along with the creation of assets, repayment of loan is also capital expenditure, as it reduces liability.

Capital spending is associated with investment or development spending, where expenditure has benefits extending years into the future.

**Revenue Expenditure:**

It neither creates assets nor reduces any liability of the government. Salaries of employees, interest payment on past debt, subsidies, pension, etc, fall under the category of revenue expenditure. It is recurring in nature.

9. Ans: c

Explanation: The National Energy Conservation Day is organized on 14th December every year by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) with an aim to showcase India's achievements in energy efficiency and conservation. Hence, statement 1 is not correct. The National Energy Conservation Awards are given on the occasion.

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) was set up as the statutory body in 2002 at the central level to facilitate the implementation of the EC Act. It functions under the Ministry of Power. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

The Global Efforts for Energy Conservation include: International Energy Agency (IEA), The Paris Agreement, Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) and Mission Innovation. India is not a member country of the IEA but an association country.

India is one of the member countries of Mission Innovation.

10. Ans: a

Explanation: 3D printing uses computer-aided designing to make prototypes or working models of objects by laying down successive layers of materials such as plastic, resin, thermoplastic, metal, fibre or ceramic. With the help of software, the model to be printed is first developed by the computer, which then gives instructions to the 3D printer.

The term "3D printing" is increasingly used as a synonym for Additive Manufacturing.

3D printing contrasts with subtractive manufacturing techniques such as carving or milling, in which an object is created by selectively removing parts from a piece of raw material).