



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 19-09-2020

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (b)

Explanation :

Lok Sabha passed the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020. The new legislation will empower farmers for engaging with processors, wholesalers, aggregators, wholesalers, large retailers, exporters etc., on a level playing field without any fear of exploitation. It will transfer the risk of market unpredictability from the farmer to the sponsor and also enable the farmer to access modern technology and better inputs. It will reduce cost of marketing and improve income of farmers. This legislation will act as a catalyst to attract private sector investment for building supply chains for supply of Indian farm produce to national and global markets, and in agricultural infrastructure. Farmers will get access to technology and advice for high value agriculture and get ready market for such produce. Farmers will engage in direct marketing thereby eliminating intermediaries resulting in full realization of price. Farmers have been provided adequate protection. Sale, lease or mortgage of farmers' land is totally prohibited and farmers' land is also protected against any recovery. Effective dispute resolution mechanism has been provided for with clear time lines for redressal.

2. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

September 19 marks the 60th anniversary of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) between India and Pakistan. The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) was signed in Karachi on 19 September 1960 by Jawaharlal Nehru and Ayub Khan. The World Bank, as the third party, played a pivotal role in crafting the IWT. The Treaty gives control over the waters of the three "eastern rivers" — the Beas, Ravi and Sutlej with a mean annual flow of 33 million acre-feet (MAF) — to India, while control over the waters of the three "western rivers" — the Indus, Chenab and Jhelum with a mean annual flow of 80 MAF — to Pakistan. India was allocated about 16% of the total water carried by the Indus system while Pakistan was allocated the remainder. The treaty allows India to use the western river waters for limited irrigation use and unlimited non-consumptive use for such applications as power generation, navigation, floating of property, fish culture, etc.

3. Ans) (d)

Explanation :

Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) announced that for the first time eight beaches of India are recommended for the coveted International eco-label, the Blue flag certification. The recommendations are done by an independent National Jury composed of eminent environmentalists & scientists. The eight beaches are Shivrajpur in Gujarat, Ghoghla in Daman & Diu, Kasarkod and Padubidri beach in Karnataka, Kappad in Kerala, Rushikonda in Andhra Pradesh, Golden beach of Odisha and Radhanagar beach in Andaman and Nicobar. The 'Blue Flag' is a certification that can be obtained by a beach, marina, or sustainable boating tourism operator, and serves as an eco-label. The certification is known as an indication of high environmental and quality standards. Blue Flag beaches are considered the cleanest beaches of the world. The certification is awarded by the Denmark-based non-profit Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) with 33 stringent criteria under four major heads for the beaches: (i) Environmental Education and Information (ii) Bathing Water Quality (iii) Environment Management and Conservation and (iv) Safety and Services. The Blue Flag Programme started in France in 1985 and in areas outside Europe since 2001.

4. Ans) (b)

Explanation :

Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched India's own eco-label BEAMS by e-hoisting the flag -#IAMSAVINGMYBEACH simultaneously at the eight beaches recently recognized as blue flag beaches. SICOM, MoEFCC in pursuit of promoting its policies for sustainable development in coastal regions have embarked upon a highly acclaimed program "BEAMS" (Beach Environment & Aesthetics Management Services) under its ICZM (Integrated Coastal Zone Management) project. This is one of the several other projects of ICZM that Govt of India is undertaking for the sustainable development of coastal regions, striving for globally recognized and the coveted eco-label 'Blue flag'. The objective of BEAMS program is to abate pollution in coastal waters, promote sustainable development of beach facilities, protect & conserve coastal ecosystems & natural resources etc. This program promotes beach recreation in absolute harmony with nature.

5. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

The International Coastal Clean-Up Day is being celebrated on September 19, 2020 around the world. International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Day takes place on the third Saturday in September every year, and is one of the largest one-day volunteer event in the world. International Coastal Cleanup Day got its start in 1986 when Linda Maraniss met Kathy O'Hara while working for Ocean Conservancy. O'Hara had just completed a report called Plastics in the Ocean: More Than a Litter Problem. The two of them reached out to other ocean-lovers and organized a Cleanup for Ocean Conservancy. The first Cleanup consisted of 2,800 volunteers. Since that time, the Cleanup has grown into an international event in more than 100

countries.

6. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) Manoj launched the Jammu and Kashmir Integrated Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (JK-IGRAMS), in a bid to create an interface with the public and focus on governance issues in the Union Territory. The system is being launched on a pilot basis in three districts — Jammu, Srinagar, and Reasi — and will gradually be rolled out in the remaining districts by October 2. It will replace the current portal that was launched in 2018. JK-IGRAMS will make the existing mechanism more robust and efficient. There will be a minute by minute status update of the grievances on the portal. Action will follow if any delay or callousness is found while addressing people's grievances. District Collectors and Deputy Commissioners will be the primary nodes for receiving, disposing and monitoring grievances. It will be available round the clock with applicant OTP authentication, acknowledgement to applicant at each stage, feedback by complainant, and grievance submission through call centre by making a phone call between 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on all days except Sunday.

7. Ans) (b)

Explanation

Montreux Record is a register of wetland sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference. It is maintained as part of the Ramsar List. Hence, statement 1 is correct. Currently, two wetlands of India are in Montreux record: Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) and Loktak Lake (Manipur). Chilika lake (Odisha) was placed in the record but was later removed from it..

8. Ans) (c)

Explanation

'Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) is a Geo-Spatial cooperation that will allow India to use the geospatial maps of the USA to get the pinpoint military accuracy of automated hardware systems and weapons such as cruise and ballistic missiles. BECA is an important precursor to India acquiring armed unmanned aerial vehicles such as the Predator-B from the USA. Predator-B uses spatial data for accurate strikes on enemy targets. BECA is one of the four foundational military communication agreements between the two countries. The other three being GSOMIA, LEMOA, CISMOA. Initially, India had reservations to geospatial mapping on the grounds of national security, but they were later

addressed by mutual dialogue and discussion between the two countries.

9. Ans) (b)

Explanation

Recently, the World Bank released the Human Capital Index (HCI) report for 2020. The index benchmarks key components of human capital across countries.

India has been ranked at the 116th position in the HCI 2020.

Other Reports Published by World Bank:

Global Economic Prospects

Ease of Doing Business

World Development Report

The Global Risks Report is published annually by the World Economic Forum (WEF).

10. Ans) (c)

Explanation

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), a legally binding treaty to conserve biodiversity has been in force since 1993. The CBD Secretariat is based in Montreal, Canada and it operates under the United Nations Environment Programme.

Programs and Protocols of CBD:

On 29 January 2000, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP5) adopted a supplementary agreement to the Convention known as the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS) to the Convention on Biological Diversity was adopted on 29 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan at COP10. Along with the Nagoya Protocol on Genetic Resources, the COP-10 also adopted a ten-year framework (collectively known as the Aichi Targets or for biodiversity) for action by all countries to save biodiversity. But, it was to be implemented between 2011-2020. India became a party to the Convention in 1994 and enacted Biological Diversity Act in 2002 for giving effect to the provisions of the CBD.