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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

25 February 2022

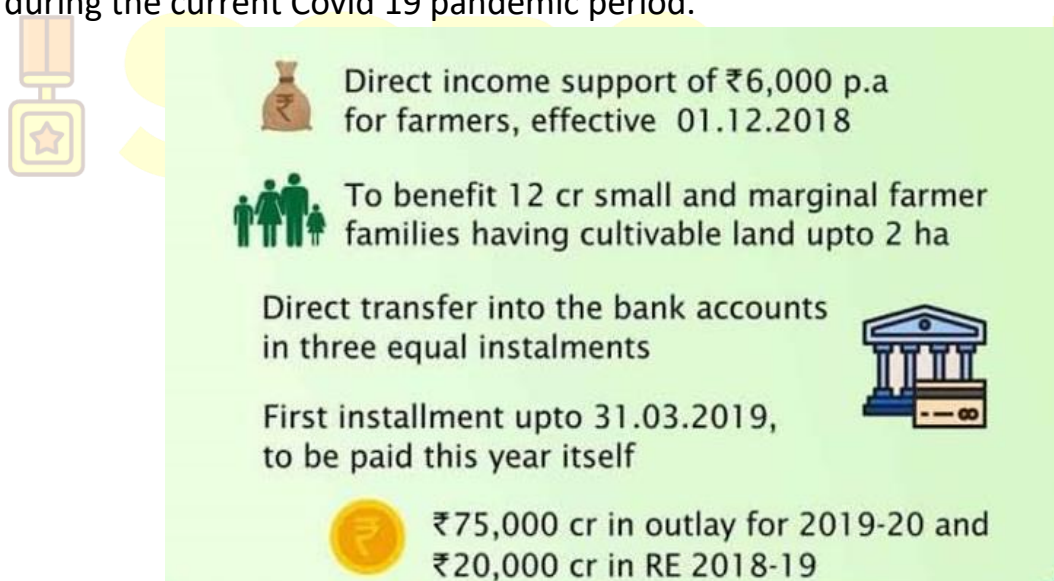
Central Excise Day Observed

- Central Excise Day is observed on February 24 and it commemorates the Central Excise and Salt Act which was enacted on 24th February 1944. The annual event highlights the essential role played by the Central Excise Department in the industrial development of the country.
- Since the beginning of civilisations, salt has been a crucial commodity. It was considered to be one of the sources of revenue by the native governments in India in various forms, such as excise duties, transit tax and much more.
- The myriad provinces and the erstwhile Indian states had their own system of administration and tax collection. It was only in 1944 that the Indian tax system was reformed by the Indian government to make payment of taxes easier. The Central Excises and Salt Act consolidated and amended the laws relating to central duties of Excise and salt having special provisions relating to salt.
- To mark the occasion, various seminars, workshops, educational and cultural events, awareness programs, competitions, and award ceremonies are organised all over the country. Apart from that, awareness programs are also run by the concerned departments and higher authorities.







PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana Completes 3 Years

- PM-KISAN is a central sector scheme launched on 24th February, 2019 to supplement financial needs of land holding farmers. Financial benefit of Rs 6000/- per year in three equal installments, every four month is transferred into the bank accounts of farmers' families across the country through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode. The scheme was initially meant for small and marginal farmers (SMFs) having landholding upto 2 hectares but scope of the scheme was extended to cover all landholding farmers with effect from 01.06.2019.
- Since, the inception of this scheme, there have been multiple set of technological & process advancements done in the scheme so that maximum number of beneficiaries can take the advantage of the same in an efficient way.
- As on 22nd February, 2022, benefits under PM Kisan scheme have been provided to about 11.78 Crore farmers and funds amounting to Rs1.82 lakh crore in various installments have been released to the eligible beneficiaries of this scheme across India. Out of which Rs. 1.29 lakh crore has been released during the current Covid 19 pandemic period.



The infographic is a green rectangular box with white text and icons. On the left side, there is a vertical yellow bar with a star icon. The text inside the box is as follows:

-  Direct income support of ₹6,000 p.a for farmers, effective 01.12.2018
-  To benefit 12 cr small and marginal farmer families having cultivable land upto 2 ha
- Direct transfer into the bank accounts in three equal instalments
- First installment upto 31.03.2019, to be paid this year itself
- 
-  ₹75,000 cr in outlay for 2019-20 and ₹20,000 cr in RE 2018-19

Industry Connect 2022

- Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya will inaugurate a seminar-Industry Connect 2022, Industry and Academia Synergy today.
- The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals in association with the Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry is organizing this seminar.
- During the seminar, two technical sessions will be organized on various issues.

Ombudsperson App For MNREGA

- Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Giriraj Singh today launched Ombudsperson App for MNREGA. This app will facilitate hassle free reporting, categorization of grievances and disposal of complaints by Ombudsperson. The app will also ensure tracking and timely passing of awards by Ombudsperson.
- Appreciating the initiative, Mr. Singh said, this app will ensure transparency and accountability in the ecosystem of MNREGA. He said, several technological and digital initiatives have been taken under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make the developmental schemes more efficient. He expressed concern over the nonappointment of Ombudsperson in some districts. He stressed that accountability of Ombudsperson must be ensured to make the MNREGA scheme more transparent.



Devayatanam

- Archaeological Survey of India of Ministry of Culture is organizing a two-day international conference 'Devayatanam - An odyssey of Indian temple architecture' at Karnataka's Hampi, Karnataka. Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy will inaugurate the conference.
- The conference aims to deliberate upon the philosophical, religious, social, economic, technical, scientific, art and architectural aspects of temple. It also intends to initiate a dialogue on the evolution and development of the various styles of temple architecture such as the Nagara, Vesara, Dravida, Kalinga and others.

- The inaugural session will take place at Pattabhirama Temple, Hampi while the academic sessions will be held in Auditorium, Kannada University in Hampi. The conference will have eminent scholars discussing on the various facets of the great temples of India.



Sustainable Cities India program

- The World Economic Forum and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on a jointly designed 'Sustainable Cities India program' which will aim to create an enabling environment for cities to generate decarbonization solutions across the energy, transport, and the built environment sectors.
- This initiative is particularly noteworthy as it comes after the Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated India's commitment to turn net zero by 2070 as a climate mitigation response at COP26.
- The 'Sustainable Cities India program' intends to enable cities to decarbonize in a systematic and sustainable way that will reduce emissions and deliver resilient and equitable urban ecosystems.
- The Forum and NIUA will adapt the Forum's City Sprint process and Toolbox of Solutions for decarbonization in the context of five to seven Indian cities across two years.
- The City Sprint process is a series of multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder workshops involving business, government, and civil society leaders to enable decarbonization, especially through clean electrification and circularity.
- The outcome of the workshop series will be a shortlist of relevant policies and business models, which not only reduce emissions but also maximize System Value, such as improved air quality or job creation.

- City Sprints will help to jumpstart and/or accelerate net zero planning and action. The City Sprint process uses the Toolbox of Solutions - a digital platform containing over 200 examples of clean electrification, efficiency and smart infrastructure best practices and case studies across buildings, energy systems and mobility from over 110 cities around the world. The City Sprint process will also enable cities to run pilot solutions and, based on findings, India will be able contribute 10 to 40 best practice case studies which will be integrated into the Toolbox of Solutions and showcased across the world.
- **About Net Zero Carbon Cities**
- The World Economic Forum's Net Zero Carbon Cities' mission is to create an enabling environment for clean electrification and circularity, resulting in urban decarbonization and resilience. The program aims to do this by fostering public-private collaboration to bridge the gap across the energy, built environment and transport sectors.
- **About NIUA**
- Established in 1976, the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) is India's leading national think tank on urban planning and development. As a hub for the generation and dissemination of cutting-edge research in the urban sector, NIUA seeks to provide innovative solutions to address the challenges of a fast urbanizing India, and pave the way for more inclusive and sustainable cities of the future.



Param Pravega

- Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru installed the supercomputer 'Param Pravega'. It has a supercomputing capacity of 3.3 petaflops.
- It has been installed under the government's National Supercomputing Mission.
- The National Supercomputing Mission is intended to indigenize the development and manufacturing of powerful computers.
- A supercomputer is a computer that performs at or near the currently highest operational rate for computers.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The Fifth Incarnation Of Vishnu Is Known As

- A. Varah
- B. Krishna
- C. Vamana
- D. Narsingh

ANSWER: C

2. Chandella Kings Are Related To

- A. Khajuraho
- B. Tirupati
- C. Rameshwaram
- D. Badrinath

ANSWER: A

3. Who Built The Kailash Temple At Ellora?

- A. Rajendra I
- B. Mahendra Varman I
- C. Mihir Bhoj
- D. Krishna I

ANSWER: D

4. Krishna I Who Constructed Kailash Temple Belongs To

- A. Mauryas
- B. Satavahanas
- C. Rashtrakutas
- D. Chalukyas

ANSWER: C

5. _____ Was Capital Of Rashtrakutas

- A. Hampi
- B. Magadha
- C. Pataliputra
- D. Manyakheta

ANSWER: D

6. 'Zend-avesta', Is The Sacred Book Of

- A. Zoroastrianism
- B. Buddhism
- C. Jainism
- D. Judaism

ANSWER: A

7. 'Torah', Is The Sacred Book Of

- A. Zoroastrianism
- B. Buddhism
- C. Jainism
- D. Judaism

ANSWER: D

8. The "Angkor Wat" Is Located In

- A. India
- B. Egypt
- C. Cambodia
- D. Japan

ANSWER: C

9. Places Of Sikh Religion Heritage Is NOT In India?

- A. Nanded
- B. Keshgarh Sahib
- C. Paonta Sahib
- D. Nankana Sahib

ANSWER: D

10. Temple Also Known As "Black Pagoda"?

- A. Trimbakeshwar Temple, Nasik
- B. Banke Bihari Temple, Vrindavan
- C. Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram
- D. Sun Temple, Konark

ANSWER: D

11. Sun Temple, Konark (Odisha) Was Built By

- A. Ganga Dynasty
- B. Chalukya Dynasty
- C. Bengal Dynasty
- D. Jagannath Dynasty

ANSWER: A

12. Tabligh And Tanzim Were Socio-religious Reforms Of

- A. Sikh
- B. Hindu
- C. Muslim
- D. Parsi

ANSWER: C

13. Odd One Out

- A. Tablighi Jamaat - Muhammad Ilyas Kandhlawi
- B. Self-Respect Movement - Venkatappa Ramasamy
- C. Satyashodhak Samaj - Jyotirao Phule
- D. None

ANSWER: D

14. Trimbakeshwar Jyotirlinga Temple Is On Banks Of

- A. Godavari
- B. Shipra
- C. Ganga
- D. Mandakini

ANSWER: A

15. Brihadesvara Temple Was Designed By

- A. Sama Varma
- B. Ravi Varma
- C. Rama Varma
- D. Govinda

ANSWER: A

16. Brihadesvara Temple Was Constructed By

- A. Rajaraja Chola I
- B. Rajaraja Chola II
- C. Rajendra Chola I
- D. Rajendra Chola II

ANSWER: A

17. Where Is Shore Temple Located In India?

- A. Kanchipuram
- B. Chennai
- C. Sarnath
- D. Mahabalipuram

ANSWER: D

18. Bhagavad Gita Was Said To Have Been Compiled By

- A. Shankaracharya
- B. Madhvacharya
- C. Veda Vyasa
- D. Vallabhacharya

ANSWER: C

19.Primary Deity Of The Sangam Period?

- A. Lord Shiva
- B. Lord Vishnu
- C. Lord Ganesha
- D. Lord Murugan

ANSWER: D

20.Sanchi Stupa In MP Was Constructed By

- A. Samudragupta
- B. Ashoka
- C. Bindusara
- D. Chandragupta Maurya

ANSWER: B



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