



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 07-06-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Union Cabinet has approved the Model Tenancy Act (MTA). States and Union territories can now adopt the Model Tenancy Act by enacting fresh legislation or they can amend their existing rental laws suitably.

Highlights of the Model Law:

Applicable prospectively and will not affect the existing tenancies. Written agreement is a must for all new tenancies. The agreement will have to be submitted to the concerned district 'Rent Authority'. The law also speaks about roles and responsibilities of landlord and tenants. No landlord or property manager can withhold any essential supply to the premises occupied by the tenant. If tenancy has not been renewed, the tenancy shall be deemed to be renewed on a month-to-month basis on the same terms and conditions as were in the expired tenancy agreement, for a maximum period of six months. Compensation in case of non-vacancy: On the expiry of extended period of six months of agreed tenancy period or the termination of tenancy by order or notice, the tenant shall be a tenant in default and liable to pay compensation of double of the monthly rent for two months and four times of the monthly rent thereafter. A landowner or property manager may enter a premise in accordance with written notice or notice through electronic medium served to the tenant at least twenty-four hours before the time of entry.

2. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its ex-post facto approval for signing and ratification of an Agreement titled "Cooperation in the field of Mass Media" between all the Member States of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. The Agreement for the same was signed in June, 2019.

3. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The United States recently announced 25% tariffs on over \$2 billion worth of imports from six nations over their digital services taxes, but immediately suspended the duties to allow time for international tax negotiations to continue. The US Trade Representative's office had approved the threatened tariffs on goods from Britain, Italy, Spain, Turkey, India and Austria after a "Section 301" investigation concluded

that their digital taxes discriminated against U.S. companies. The potential tariffs aim to equal the amount of digital taxes that would be collected from U.S. firms.

About the Digital Tax:

India was the one of the first countries to introduce a 6 per cent equalisation levy in 2016, but the levy was restricted to online advertisement services. However, India introduced the digital tax in April 2020 for foreign companies selling goods and services online to customers in India and showing annual revenues more than INR 20 million.

Applicability:

India has expanded the scope of the equalisation levy over the last few years, to tax non-resident digital entities. While the levy applied only to digital advertising services till 2019-20 at the rate of 6 percent, the government in April last year widened the scope to impose a 2 per cent tax on non-resident e-commerce players with a turnover of Rs 2 crore. The scope was further widened in the Finance Act 2021-22 to cover e-commerce supply or service when any activity takes place online. Since May 2021, this also includes any entity that systematically and continuously does business with more than 3 lakh users in India.

When will the tax not apply?

Offshore e-commerce firms that sell through an Indian arm will not have to pay. This means if the goods and services sold on a foreign e-commerce platform are owned or provided by an Indian resident or Indian permanent establishment, they will not be subject to the two percent equalization levy.

4. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has said only B.1.617.2, one of the three strains of the B.1.617 COVID-19 variant first detected in India, is a “variant of concern” now.

Background:

The B.1.617 variant was first detected in India and was divided in three lineages — B.1.617.1, B.1.617.2 and B.1.617.3.

How do variants of a virus emerge and why? Variants of a virus have one or more mutations that differentiate it from the other variants that are in circulation. Essentially, the goal of the virus is to reach a stage where it can cohabitate with humans because it needs a host to survive. Errors in the viral RNA are called mutations, and viruses with these mutations are called variants. Variants could differ by a single or many mutations.

5. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

India has decided to vote in support of Maldives’ Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid in the election of the President of the United Nations General Assembly. This time the UNGA head will be chosen from the

Asia-Pacific grouping.

Asia- Pacific group of the UN:

Consists of 53 Member States and is the second largest regional group by number of member states after the African Group. Its territory is composed of much of the continents of Asia and Oceania with the exception of a few countries.

About UNGA:

The General Assembly is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN. All 193 Member States of the UN are represented in the General Assembly, making it the only UN body with universal representation. The President of the General Assembly is elected each year by assembly to serve a one-year term of office. The presidency rotates annually between the five geographic groups: African, Asia-Pacific, Eastern European, Latin American and Caribbean, and Western European and other States.

How are the decisions taken?

Decisions on important questions, such as those on peace and security, admission of new members and budgetary matters, require a two-thirds majority of the General Assembly. Decisions on other questions are by simple majority. The Assembly has no binding votes or veto powers like the UN Security Council.

According to the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly may:

Consider and approve the United Nations budget and establish the financial assessments of Member States. Elect the non-permanent members of the Security Council and the members of other United Nations councils and organs and, on the recommendation of the Security Council, appoint the Secretary-General. Consider and make recommendations on the general principles of cooperation for maintaining international peace and security, including disarmament. Discuss any question relating to international peace and security and, except where a dispute or situation is currently being discussed by the Security Council, make recommendations on it.

6. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

China's Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST), also known as 'Artificial Sun' experiment, has set a new record in the latest experiment, where it achieved a plasma temperature of 216 million Fahrenheit (120 million C) for 101 seconds.

Why is this significant?

It is believed that the temperature at the core of the Sun is 15 million C, which also means that the temperature produced by (EAST) is nearly seven times that of the Sun.

It is a significant step in the country's quest to unlock clean and limitless energy, with minimal waste products.

What is EAST?

The mission mimics the energy generation process of the sun. The reactor consists of an advanced nuclear

fusion experimental research device located in Hefei, China. It is one of three major domestic tokamaks that are presently being operated across the country. The EAST project is part of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) facility, which will become the world's largest nuclear fusion reactor when it becomes operational in 2035.

Why is fusion better than fission?

While fission is an easier process to carry out, it generates far more nuclear waste. Unlike fission, fusion also does not emit greenhouse gases and is considered a safer process with lower risk of accidents. Once mastered, nuclear fusion could potentially provide unlimited clean energy and very low costs.

Which other countries have achieved this feat?

China is not the only country that has achieved high plasma temperatures. In 2020, South Korea's KSTAR reactor set a new record by maintaining a plasma temperature of over 100 million degrees Celsius for 20 seconds.

7. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

U.S. President Joe Biden recently became the first sitting American head of state to officially recognise the incident. It is one of the worst incidents of violent racial hate in the US' modern history. It involved widespread killings in Tulsa, Oklahoma, targeting relatively well-to-do African Americans, and the extensive damage to their property by white mobs. Tulsa was especially known for being an unofficial sanctuary city for African Americans suffering the consequences of harsh segregation or Jim Crow laws in pre-civil rights America. It was also called as the "Black Wall Street" of the U.S.

8. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Justice Arun Kumar Mishra was appointed as the Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

NHRC was established in 1993.

It is in conformity with the Paris Principles, adopted at the first international workshop on national institutions for the protection of human rights held in Paris in 1991. Status: It is a statutory organization established under the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993

Headquarters: New Delhi.

Functions:

To investigate the violation of human rights/ the failures of the states/other to prevent a human rights violation The commissions may also take on research about human rights, create awareness campaigns through various mediums, and encourage the work of NGOs.

Composition:

Chairperson, four full-time Members and four deemed Members. A Chairperson, should be retired Chief Justice of India or a Judge of the Supreme Court. Appointment: The Chairperson and members of the NHRC are appointed by the President of India, on the recommendation of a committee consisting of:

- The Prime Minister (Chairperson)
- The Home Minister
- The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha
- The Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha
- The Speaker of the Lok Sabha
- The Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha
- They hold office for a term of three years or until they attain the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.
- The President can remove them from the office under specific circumstances.

9. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), monsoon rains in June-September would be 101% of the Long Period Average (LPA) of 88 cm. This still constitutes 'normal' rainfall, which is from 96-104% of the LPA.

About Long Period Average (LPA)

It is the average of rainfall received over a 50-year period between 1951 and 2001, which is around 89 cm of rainfall. This is kept as a benchmark while forecasting the quantitative rainfall for the monsoon season every year. Categories of the rainfall

IMD maintains five rainfall distribution categories on an all-India scale:

Excess: If the rainfall is more than 110 % of this LPA. Above Normal: If the rainfall is between 104 and 110 % of this LPA. Normal: If the rainfall is between 96 and 104 % of this LPA. Below Normal: If the rainfall is between 90 and 96 % of this LPA. Deficient: If the rainfall is less than 90 % of this LPA.

10. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has found three more caves in Trirashmi hill in Nashik, Maharashtra. The Trirashmi Buddhist caves, also known as Pandav Leni, are also located at the same place.

The newly found caves are believed to be older than the Trirashmi caves. These are assumed to be the dwellings of Buddhist monks. All the caves have verandahs and the characteristic square stone platform for monks. There are special arrangements for monks to meditate, similar to the Kanheri and Wai caves.

Important value additions

Trirashmi caves The Trirashmi or Pandav Leni caves are a group of 25 caves. They were carved out of Trirashmi Hill between the 2nd century BC and 6th century AD. It is an ASI protected site and a tourist destination. The Buddhist sculptures and caves in Nashik are early examples of Indian rock-cut architecture representing the Hinayana tradition of Buddhism.

MAHAYANA BUDDHISM	HIMAYANA BUDDHISM
It considers Gautama Buddha to be a divine being who will help his followers to attain nirvana	It considers Gautama Buddha as an ordinary human being who attained Nirvana
Its followers can be found in China, (South) Korea, Japan and Tibet	Its followers are found in Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia and Laos
Scriptures were written in Sanskrit	Scriptures were written in Pali
It began to flourish around 500 BC.	It started to flourish around 250 BC.