



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 08-06-2021

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Amid an acute vaccine crisis in the country, India is expected to grant indemnity to foreign vaccine makers including Pfizer and Moderna which would make it easier for their Covid vaccines to come to India. Now, Serum Institute has become the latest pharma company to ask for indemnity from liability, stating that all vaccine manufacturers, whether Indian or foreign, should be protected against legal suits for any severe side effects.

What is indemnity clause?

In simple terms, indemnity means security against a loss or other financial stress. In legal terms, it means a contractual obligation of one party to compensate another party due to the acts of the former. The clause is commonly used in insurance contracts. In the case of India, if the government gives an indemnity to foreign vaccine makers to roll out their vaccine in the country, the government, and not the vaccine maker, would be liable to compensate any citizen who claims to have side effects after taking the vaccine jab.

What are 'Bridging trials'?

'Bridging trials' are localised clinical trials which generate data related to the impact of foreign medicines/vaccines on the indigenous population before they are rolled out for the public. These trials are important in ascertaining the efficacy and potential side-effects related to the medicine/vaccine. Besides clearance on indemnity clause, foreign vaccine makers including Pfizer and Moderna had sought relaxation on the requirement for a post-approval bridging trial for its vaccine.

Are there any exceptions to indemnification?

There are a number of common exceptions to indemnification. An indemnification provision may exclude indemnification for claims or losses that result from the indemnified party's:

- Negligence or gross negligence.
- Improper use of the products.
- Bad faith failure to comply with its obligations in the agreement.

2. Ans:D

Explanation:

The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has laid down a defined procedure to be followed by government organisations for getting vigilance clearance before employing a retired official on a contractual or consultancy basis.

As per the procedure:

Applicability: Before offering employment to retired All India Services and Group A officers of the Central government or their equivalent in other organisations owned or controlled by the Centre, vigilance clearance from the employer organisation, from which the officer has retired, should be obtained. In case a retired officer served in more than one organisation, clearance has to be obtained from all of them where the person was posted in the 10 years prior to retirement. A communication seeking clearance should also be sent to the CVC. If no reply is received from the erstwhile employer (s) within 15 days of sending the communication by speed post, a reminder can be sent. If there is no response within 21 days, vigilance clearance should be deemed to have been given. If the employee is found involved in any vigilance-related matter or not cleared from the vigilance point of view, the erstwhile employer organisation would be responsible for all consequential actions.

Need for these rules:

The absence of a uniform procedure sometimes led to a situation where officials with tainted past or cases pending against them were engaged.

Such a situation not only leads to unnecessary complaints/allegations of favouritism, but is also against the tenets of fairness and probity which is the basic principle governing the functioning of government organisations.

About CVC:

The CVC was set up by the Government in February, 1964 on the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption, headed by Shri K. Santhanam. In 2003, the Parliament enacted CVC Act conferring statutory status on the CVC. The CVC is not controlled by any Ministry/Department. It is an independent body which is only responsible to the Parliament. It submits its report to the President of India. It exercises superintendence over the functioning of the Delhi Special Police Establishment (CBI) insofar as it relates to the investigation of offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

3. Ans:B

Explanation:

The NITI Aayog Vice-Chairperson Dr Rajiv Kumar released the SDG India Index and Dashboard 2020–21 on June 03, 2021. Top States in SDG India Index 2020–21: Kerala (75). Bottom 5 States in SDG India Index 2020–21: Bihar (52)

4. Ans:C

Explanation:

Under this scheme, RBI has advised commercial banks to create a COVID loan book. The loans given to contact-intensive sectors under this window shall form a part of this COVID loan book. Now banks will have the facility to park their surplus liquidity up to the size of the COVID loan book with RBI at a rate

of (Repo Rate-0.25%). (special 14-day reverse repo window will be opened for this.)

5. Ans:B

Explanation:

In a big move towards solar energy's adoption in the State of Goa, Chief Minister (CM) Pramod Sawant has launched a solar-based rural electrification drive for rural households.

6. Ans:A

Explanation:

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has launched Online Tracking Portal 'Bal Swaraj (COVID-Care Link) for child in need of care and protection.

7. Ans:D

Explanation:

NASA has selected two missions to the planet Venus.

Details about the missions

The missions are called DAVINCI+ and VERITAS These will be launched between 2028 and 2030.

DAVINCI+ is 'Deep Atmosphere Venus Investigation of Noble gases, Chemistry, and Imaging' It is the first US-led mission to the planet's atmosphere since 1978. It will try to understand Venus' composition to see how the planet formed and evolved. It also consists of a descent sphere that will pass through the planet's thick atmosphere and make observations and take measurements of noble gases and other elements. It will also try to return the first high resolution photographs of a geological feature, tesserae, that is unique to Venus. The presence of tesserae may suggest that Venus has tectonic plates like Earth.

The second mission called VERITAS is 'Venus Emissivity, Radio Science, InSAR, Topography, and Spectroscopy' It will map the planet's surface to determine its geologic history and understand the reasons why it developed so differently from Earth.

8. Ans:C

Explanation:

Ranjitsinh Disale was the first Indian teacher to receive the Global Teacher Award He has been appointed by the World Bank as its Advisor till December 2024. World Bank has recently launched the Global Coach Program It is a new initiative focused on accelerating learning by helping countries improve in-service teacher professional development (TPD) programs and systems.

9. Ans:D

Explanation:

Recently, India and the UK have launched a new workstream to promote industrial energy efficiency under Clean Energy Ministerial's (CEM) Industrial Deep Decarbonization Initiative (IDDI). It is coordinated by UNIDO (United Nations Development Industrial organisation). It was launched in the ongoing 12th CEM (CEM12) Meeting, virtually hosted by Chile.

About 12th CEM Meeting

Objective: To infuse green technologies and stimulate demand for low-carbon industrial material. India is committed to cut emissions intensity per unit of GDP by 33 to 35% by 2030. The commitment depends on effective deployment of low carbon technologies in Energy Intensive Sectors like Iron & Steel, Cement and Petrochemicals.

About Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM)

It was established in December 2009 at the UN's Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) CoP in Copenhagen.

Purpose:

To promote policies and programs that advance clean energy technology To share lessons learned and best practices To encourage the transition to a global clean energy economy. Focus Areas

Improve energy efficiency worldwide. Enhance clean energy supply. Expand clean energy access.

Members:

29 countries India is also a member country.

10. Ans:C

Explanation:

The African Union suspended Mali's membership in response to the military coup and it threatened Mali with sanctions if a civilian-led government was not restored. West African regional bloc Economic Community of West African States ECOWAS had also suspended Mali. About Mali Mali is a landlocked country in West Africa. Capital: Bamako. About African Union It is a continental union consisting of 55 countries of Africa. In 2017, the AU admitted Morocco as a member state. The AU was announced in the Sirte Declaration in Sirte, Libya in 1999. It was founded in 2001 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It was launched in 2002 in Durban, South Africa. The AU's secretariat, the African Union Commission, is based in Addis Ababa

India and AU

India is a member of the AU Partners Group (AUPG), which meets periodically in Addis Ababa.

India-Africa Forum Summit was the first ever India-Africa Forum Summit, participated by the Leaders of 14 African countries and the African Union Commission. It represented a turning point in the India- AU relations. The Summit adopted the Delhi Declaration and the Africa-India Framework for Cooperation, which constituted the blueprint for cooperation between India and Africa in the 21st century.