



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 20-03-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The largest floating solar farm of the world is being built in Singapore. The country has resorted to set up the energy plants off the coasts and reservoirs across it.

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has released the Trinamool Congress manifesto for the 2021 Assembly election. The manifesto, among other things, promises universal basic income for every family.

As per the announcement: Under the income scheme, all the 1.6 crore families under the general category will get Rs. 500 a month and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population Rs. 1,000 a month.

The direct transfers will be in the name of the women head of the family. What is Universal Basic Income? It is a programme for providing all citizens of a geographic area (a country or state) with a given sum of money, regardless of their income, resources or employment status. The main idea behind UBI is to prevent or reduce poverty and increase equality among citizens. The essential principle behind Universal basic income is the idea that all citizens are entitled to a livable income, irrespective of the circumstances they're born in.

UBI has the following important components:

- Universality (all citizens included).
- Unconditionality (no prior condition).
- Periodic (Payments at periodic regular intervals).
- Payments in cash (not food vouchers or service coupons).

3. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Opposition parties severely criticised the Modi government for concentrating their efforts in 'privatising' the Railways in the last seven years.

Recommendations by Bibek Debroy Committee:

The Bibek Debroy Committee, which was set up to suggest ways to mobilize resources for the Indian Railways and restructure the Railway Board, had favored privatization of rolling stock: wagons and

coaches.

Rail Privatisation:

Pros: Improved Infrastructure– It will lead to better infrastructure which in turn would lead to improved amenities for travelers. Balancing Quality of Service with High Fares– The move would foster competition and hence lead to overall betterment in the quality of services. Lesser Accidents– Because private ownership is synonymous with better maintenance, supporters of privatisation feel that it will reduce the number of accidents, thus resulting in safe travel and higher monetary savings in the long run.

Cons:

Coverage Limited to Lucrative Sectors – An advantage of Indian Railways being government- owned is that it provides nation-wide connectivity irrespective of profit. This would not be possible with privatisation since routes which are less popular will be eliminated, thus having a negative impact on connectivity. It will also render some parts of the country virtually inaccessible and omit them from the process of development. **Fares –** Given that a private enterprise runs on profit, it is but natural to assume that the easiest way of accruing profits in Indian Railways would be to hike fares, thus rendering the service out of reach for lower income groups. This will defeat the entire purpose of the system which is meant to serve the entire population of the country irrespective of the level of income. **Accountability –** Private companies are unpredictable in their dealings and do not share their governance secrets with the world at large. In such a scenario it would be difficult to pin the accountability on a particular entity, should there be a discrepancy.

4. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Ministry of Education has decided to link the Online Teacher Pupil Registration Management System (OTPRMS) Certificates with DigiLocker.

Objective:

- To ensure hassle free access to verified OTPRMS Certificates
- The issued certificates will automatically be transferred to DigiLocker.
- The same may be traced at National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) website.
- The registration fee for obtaining Certificates has been waived off.
- This will enable all stakeholders across India to be digitally empowered facilitating ease of doing business.

DigiLocker

DigiLocker is a flagship initiative of Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) under Digital India Corporation (DIC).

Aim: ‘Digital Empowerment’ of citizens by providing access to authentic digital documents to citizen’s digital document wallet. The issued documents in DigiLocker system are deemed to be at par with

original physical documents as per Rule 9A of the Information Technology Rules, 2016

5. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Indian Navy Ship Jalashwa arrived at port of Anjouan in Comoros with 1,000 metric tonnes of rice. This highlights the ties between India and Comoros within the framework of PM Modi's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for all in the Indian Ocean Region). The Comoros is an island country in the Indian Ocean. 3 major islands in the Comoros Archipelago: Ngazidja (Grande Comore), Mwali (Mohéli) and Ndzuanani (Anjouan) It is situated in the Mozambique Channel, between the African coast (nearest to Mozambique and Tanzania) and Madagascar, with no land borders. It is a member of the Arab League. It is the only country in the Arab world which is entirely in the Southern Hemisphere. It is also a member state of the African Union, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, and the Indian Ocean Commission.

6. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The Supreme Court has agreed to urgently hear a plea by NGO Association for Democratic Reforms to stay the sale of a new set of electoral bonds on April 1, before the Assembly elections in crucial States such as West Bengal and Tamil Nadu.

What's the issue?

The petitioner pointed out that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Election Commission had both said that the sale of electoral bonds had become an avenue for shell corporations and entities to park illicit money and even proceeds of bribes with political parties.

What are electoral bonds?

Electoral Bond is a financial instrument for making donations to political parties. The bonds are issued in multiples of Rs. 1,000, Rs. 10,000, Rs. 1 lakh, Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 1 crore without any maximum limit. State Bank of India is authorised to issue and encash these bonds, which are valid for fifteen days from the date of issuance. These bonds are redeemable in the designated account of a registered political party. The bonds are available for purchase by any person (who is a citizen of India or incorporated or established in India) for a period of ten days each in the months of January, April, July and October as may be specified by the Central Government. A person being an individual can buy bonds, either singly or jointly with other individuals. Donor's name is not mentioned on the bond.

7. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Supreme Court has asked the Centre to respond to a plea related to the cancellation of over three-crore ration cards for not linking them to Aadhaar.

Also, the SC has sought a report on the implementation of the grievances redressal mechanism. It is contained in Sections 14, 15 and 16 of the National Food Security Act, 2013.

What's the issue?

A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court which said that such cancellations had led to starvation deaths across the country. Right to food, which the ration card symbolised, cannot be curbed or cancelled because of lack of Aadhaar, says the petitioner

Concerns:

The Court said the issue is concerning because the government has cancelled cards of even tribal people and the poor, solely because they could not be biometrically linked with Aadhaar. The Union of India casually gives an explanation that these cancelled cards were bogus. The real reason is that the technological system based on iris identification, thumb prints, non-possession of Aadhaar, non-functioning of the Internet in rural and remote areas, etc., led to largescale cancellation of ration cards, without notice to the family concerned. What are Ration Cards? Ration card is an official document issued by state governments in India to households. The Household should be eligible to purchase subsidized food grain under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). They also serve as a common form of identification for many Indians. Under the NFSA, all state governments have to identify eligible households under the Public Distribution System and provide them with ration cards. India's ranking in global indices: The Hunger Watch Report of the Right to Food Campaign in 2020 characterised the hunger situation in India as "grave". India ranks 94 out of 107 countries in the Global Hunger Index 2020 and is in the 'Serious Hunger Category'.

8. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The European commission has unveiled a "digital green certificate" that could allow EU citizens who have been vaccinated, tested negative or recovered from Covid-19 to travel more freely within the bloc.

What is it? The digital document will contain a QR code and can be carried on a mobile phone. It has deliberately not been called a "vaccine passport" because some member states felt that would discriminate against those who had not yet been offered a shot. All EU citizens or third-country nationals who are legally staying in the EU will be able to use these digital certificates and thereby will be exempted from free movement restrictions. Who will issue these certificates? The certificate can be issued by authorities, including hospitals, testing centres and health authorities. What is the need for such a document? In the EU and across the world, the tourism industry has been severely impacted due to the spread of the disease. Many countries have, therefore, been contemplating digital certificates or passports that will be proof that a person has been vaccinated or has recovered from COVID-19. In February, Israel became the first country to issue certificates called "vaccine passports" that will allow vaccinated individuals to use some facilities and attend events.

9. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Manipur has emerged as the Champion state where the Van Dhan programme has emerged as a major source of employment for the local tribals. The Van Dhan Vikas Yojana is a programme for value addition, branding & marketing of Minor Forest Produces by establishing Van Dhan Kendras to facilitate creation of sustainable livelihoods for the forest-based tribes. It is a major scheme that has contributed to increasing employment and income generation among the tribal population. The programme is implemented by TRIFED.

10. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

National Water Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti had launched a campaign “Catch the Rain” with the tag line “Catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls” in 2020. It aims to nudge the states and all stakeholders to create Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RWHS) suitable to the climatic conditions and sub-soil strata, with people’s active participation. Launched in collaboration with the “Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan” (NYKS) involving Youth Clubs in 623 districts across the country.