



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 24-07-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Supreme Court on July 20 in a 2:1 majority verdict upheld the validity of the 97th constitutional amendment but struck down a part inserted by it which relates to the Constitution and working of cooperative societies.

The 97th constitutional amendment:

It dealt with issues related to effective management of co-operative societies in the country. It was passed by Parliament in December 2011 and had come into effect from February 15, 2012. It amended Article 19(1)(c) to give protection to the cooperatives and inserted Article 43 B and Part IX B, relating to them.

Why a part of it has been struck down by the Court?

Upholding the Gujarat High Court's 2013 decision striking down certain provisions of the 97th constitutional amendment, the Supreme Court held that the Parliament cannot enact laws with regard to cooperative societies as it is a State subject. Several intervenors have contended that the amendment made a direct in-road into the exclusive domain of states to enact laws with regard to cooperatives. However, the Centre has contended that the provision does not denude states of their power to enact laws with regard to cooperatives.

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

In the Bhima Koregaon caste violence case, highlighting the issue of undertrials, the Supreme Court has said that "speedy trial is a fundamental right".

What's the issue?

Charges are not framed in the case. Many witnesses are still being examined. They are languishing in jail without trial.

About the Constitutional Right to Speedy Trial:

The main aim of the Right to Speedy trial is to inculcate Justice in the society. It was first mentioned in that landmark document of English law, the Magna Carta. In India, it is covered under Article 21 which declares that "no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to the procedure laid by law."

3. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos back on earth after 10-min flight to space on Blue Origin's New Shepard spacecraft. He was accompanied by brother Mark Bezos, Wally Funk, and 18-year-old passenger Oliver Daemen.

Significance of the mission:

The astronauts experienced three to four minutes of zero-g and travelled above the Kármán Line, the internationally-recognised boundary of space.

What is New Shephard, the rocket system?

It is a rocket system meant to take tourists to space successfully. The system is built by Blue Origin. New Shephard has been named after astronaut Alan Shephard, the first American to go to space. It offers flights to space over 100 km above the Earth and accommodation for payloads. The system is a fully reusable, vertical takeoff and vertical landing space vehicle.

4. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

India has emerged as the fifth largest foreign exchange reserves holder in the world after China, Japan, Switzerland and Russia. The country's forex reserves stood at around 609 billion Dollars.

5. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Indian warship INS Tabar was part of a two-day exercise with French frigate FNS Aquitaine and four Rafale fighter aircraft of the French Navy in the Bay of Biscay.

6. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

The Government of Maharashtra has decided to issue educational documents to students of educational institutions using blockchain technology. With this Maharashtra will become the first state in the country and world's largest user of Blockchain for educational certificates.

7. Ans) (b)

Explanation: Located in Kalahandi district, Odisha. It lies within the Eastern Highlands moist deciduous forests ecoregion. Flora: Sal, Bija, Asan, Harida, Amala, Bahada and Bamboo and varieties of medicinal plants.

8. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Bengaluru's Municipal Corporation (BBMP) is set to extend the E-Aasthi project to all the wards in the three core zones – South, East and West.

Key Takeaways

E-Aasthi Project aims to digitise property documents. Presently it is being implemented in 100 wards of BBMP Limits. E-Aasthi software was initially developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) for all urban local bodies. It was later customised by Karnataka State government. NIC, established in 1976 under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology provides network backbone and e-Governance support to Union/State/UT Governments. With the implementation of E-aasthi, updating different property transactions, such as sale, inheritance, partition, gift, will, land acquisition, khata amalgamation/bifurcation can be done easily, without having to visit the BBMP offices. Since it is an end-to-end app, the E-Aasthi system was linked to property tax records under GIS-enabled Property Tax Information System (GEPTIS). Significance of E-Aasthi:

Sanitises revenue records Bring in transparency and accountability in land transactions Stamps out illegal transactions and cutting out middlemen.

9. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The Supreme Court has directed the release of Manipur-based activist Erendra Leichongbom, detained under the National Security Act for his social media posts allegedly on the efficacy of cow dung and urine as cures for COVID-19 in the context of the death of a BJP leader. The NSA is a preventive detention law. Preventive Detention involves the detainment (containment) of a person in order to keep him/her from committing future crimes and/or from escaping future prosecution. Article 22 (3) (b) of the Constitution allows for preventive detention and restriction on personal liberty for reasons of state security and public order.

Article 22(4)states that:

No law providing for preventive detention shall authorise the detention of a person for a longer period than three months unless:

An Advisory Board reports sufficient cause for extended detention. The 44th Amendment Act of 1978 has reduced the period of detention without obtaining the opinion of an advisory board from three to two months. However, this provision has not yet been brought into force, hence, the original period of three months still continues.

Period of Confinement:

The maximum period for which one may be detained is 12 months. But the term can be extended if the

government finds fresh evidence. A person can be held for 10 days without being told the charges against them. The person can appeal before a high court advisory board but will not be allowed a lawyer during the trial.

10. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

It is a spyware tool developed by an Israeli firm, the NSO Group. Pegasus works by sending an exploit link, and if the target user clicks on the link, the malware or the code that allows the surveillance is installed on the user's phone. Once Pegasus is installed, the attacker has complete access to the target user's phone. Pegasus infections can be achieved through so-called "zero-click" attacks, which do not require any interaction from the phone's owner in order to succeed. Human Rights activists, journalists and lawyers around the world have been targeted with phone malware sold to authoritarian governments by an Israeli surveillance firm.

Budapest Convention:

It is the first international treaty seeking to address Internet and computer crime (cybercrime) by harmonizing national laws, improving investigative techniques, and increasing cooperation among nations. Since it entered into force, important countries like Brazil and India have declined to adopt the Convention on the grounds that they did not participate in its drafting. It is the first multilateral legally binding instrument to regulate cybercrime. Since 2018, India has been reconsidering its stand on the Convention after a surge in cybercrime, though concerns about sharing data with foreign agencies remain