



# EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 07-12-2020

### EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has notified a new tariff structure for 14 natural gas pipelines, which, it says, aims to reduce the cost of natural gas for users further away from sources of natural gas and LNG terminals on the west coast of the country. Under the new unified tariff structure, buyers will be charged a fixed tariff for the transport of gas within 300 kms of a source and a fixed tariff for the transport of gas beyond 300 kms on a single pipeline network. This would be significantly cheaper for buyers further away from the source of gas who were earlier charged on the basis of the number of pipelines used and the distance from the source of gas. Therefore, a buyer using multiple pipelines in GAIL's networks would likely benefit significantly from this change.

2. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The Government of India has notified compulsory surgical procedures for PG students of Ayurveda. On November 19, a government notification listed out specific surgical procedures that a postgraduate medical student of Ayurveda must be "practically trained to acquaint with, as well as to independently perform". The notification has invited sharp criticism from the Indian Medical Association, which questioned the competence of Ayurveda practitioners to carry out these procedures, and called the notification an attempt at "mixopathy". The IMA has planned nationwide protests on December 8 against this notification, and has threatened to withdraw all non-essential and non-Covid services on December 11. Ayurveda practitioners take pride in the fact that their methods trace their origins to Sushruta, an ancient Indian sage and physician, whose comprehensive medical treatise Sushruta Samhita has also detailed accounts of surgical procedures and instruments.

3. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Ministry of AYUSH have decided to set up an AYUSH Export Promotion Council to boost AYUSH exports. This decision was taken recently in a joint review of AYUSH trade and Industry by Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of AYUSH. The following are the action points that emerged from the meeting:

Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Commerce and Industry will work together for establishing an

AYUSH Export Promotion Council (AEPC). The proposed AEPC can be housed at Ministry of AYUSH. Standardisation of HS code for AYUSH will be expedited. Ministry of AYUSH will work in collaboration with Bureau of Indian standards to develop international standards for AYUSH products as well as services. AYUSH industry will work on ensuring quality and standards of AYUSH products as well as to become price-competitive. AYUSH will figure in the Brand India activities.

4. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Tourists can no longer get too close to the iconic stone chariot in front of the Vijaya Vittala Temple at Hampi, a UNESCO World Heritage site. The architectural marvel, one of the most photographed monuments, has been cordoned off by a chain barricade by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

The ASI put up the barricade to prevent people from touching or climbing the monument and causing damage to it in any way. The chariot inside the temple complex is a shrine dedicated to Garuda, but the sculpture of Garuda is now missing. The Hampi chariot is one among the three famous stone chariots in India, the other two being in Konark, Odisha, and Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu. The delicately carved chariot at Hampi reflects skill of temple architecture under the patronage of Vijayanagara rulers who reigned from 14th to 17th century CE. Vijayanagar temples are surrounded by strong enclosures and characterized by ornate pillared kalyanamandapa (marriage halls); tall rayagopurams (carved monumental towers at the entrance of the temple) built of wood, brick, and stucco in the Chola style; and adorned with life-sized figures of gods and goddesses. This dravida style became popular during the reign of Krishnadeva Raya and is seen in South Indian temples constructed over the next two centuries. Vijayanagar temples are also known for their carved pillars, which depict charging horses, figures from Hindu mythology, and yali (hippogriffs). Some of the larger temples are dedicated to a male deity, with a separate shrine intended for the worship of his female counterpart. Some famous temples exemplifying the Vijayanagar style include the Virupaksha Temple at Hampi and the Hazara Rama temple of Deva Raya I.

5. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

International Civil Aviation Day is being observed on 7 December. The purpose of International Civil Aviation Day is to help generate awareness of the importance of international civil aviation and of the unique role of ICAO in helping States to cooperate and realize a truly global rapid transit network at the service of all mankind. Every five years, coinciding with ICAO anniversaries, the ICAO Council establishes a special anniversary theme for International Civil Aviation Day. Between these anniversary years, Council representatives select a single theme for the full four-year intervening period.

The Council has decided that from now until 2023, the theme will be: “Advancing Innovation for Global

Aviation Development”. In 1944, delegates from 54 nations gathered in Chicago at the invitation of the United States of America. At this event, the participants concluded and signed the Convention on International Civil Aviation, also known more popularly as the ‘Chicago Convention’. International Civil Aviation Day was established in 1994 as part of ICAO's 50th anniversary activities. In 1996, pursuant to an ICAO initiative and with the assistance of the Canadian Government, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/51/33, which officially recognized 7 December as International Civil Aviation Day in the UN system.

6. Ans) (b)

Explanation :

Leaving their known habitat in Dhari in Gir (east) wildlife division in Amreli district, three Asiatic lions have walked around 100 km to reach Jasdan taluka of Rajkot district, Gujarat and have been camping in a grassland and revenue areas of Jasdan for a week now. This is for the second year in a row that lions have visited Jasdan. Lions keep moving from surrounding areas to Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary (NGPWLS), creating what is called lion corridors. But their Jasdan visit differs for the fact that it is second year in a row, that too around same time of the year. Also, Jasdan is not connected to Amreli by any contiguous riverine patch associated with corridors like Krakach. Lions are considered top predators of grassland and shrubland ecosystems. Jasdan, Vinchhiya and Chotila talukas have grasslands, both private as well as in protected forest areas.

7. Ans) (c)

Explanation

Recently, the Supreme Court (SC) has held that lottery, gambling and betting are taxable under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Act, 2017. The Parliament has an absolute power to go for an inclusive definition of the term ‘goods’ to include actionable claims like lottery, gambling and betting. Article 246A of the Constitution fully empowers the Parliament to make laws with respect to goods and services tax and expansive definition of goods given in Section 2 (52) cannot be said to be not in accord with the constitutional provisions.

8. Ans) (d)

Explanation

The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) is a landmark cancer genomics program that molecularly characterized over 20,000 primary cancer and matched normal samples spanning 33 cancer types.

This is a joint effort between the US- National Cancer Institute and the National Human Genome Research Institute began in 2006, bringing together researchers from diverse disciplines and multiple institutions. Over the years, TCGA generated over 2.5 petabytes of genomic, epigenomic, transcriptomic,

and proteomic data. The data, which has already led to improvements in the ability to diagnose, treat, and prevent cancer, will remain publicly available for anyone (open source) in the research community to use.

9. Ans) (b)

Explanation

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is a statutory and institutionalized framework under the RBI Act 1934, for maintaining price stability, while keeping in mind the objective of growth. It determines the policy interest rate (repo rate) required to achieve the inflation target of 4% to 6% of consumer price index.

10. Ans) (d)

Explanation

Recently, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has highlighted that Australia's Great Barrier Reef is in a critical state and deteriorating as climate change warms up the waters in which it lies. It is the world's most extensive and spectacular coral reef ecosystem composed of over 2,900 individual reefs and 900 islands. The reef is located in the North-East Coast of Coral Sea, off the coast of Queensland, Australia. It can be seen from outer space and is the world's biggest single structure made by living organisms. This reef structure is composed of and built by billions of tiny organisms, known as coral polyps. It was selected as a World Heritage Site in 1981.