



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 08-10-2020

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Union Cabinet has approved 'Natural Gas Marketing Reforms' to move towards gas based economy. The policy aims to provide standard procedure for sale of natural gas in a transparent and competitive manner to discover market price by issuing guidelines for sale by contractor through e-bidding. This will bring uniformity in the bidding process across the various contractual regimes and policies to avoid ambiguity and contribute towards ease of doing business. The policy has also permitted Affiliate companies to participate in the bidding process in view of the open, transparent and electronic bidding. The policy will also grant marketing freedom to the Field Development Plans (FDPs) of those Blocks in which Production Sharing Contracts already provide pricing freedom.

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Supreme Court has said that occupying public places for protests is not acceptable and such a space cannot be occupied indefinitely. The verdict came on a plea against the Anti-Citizenship Amendment Act protests which had led to blocking of a road in Shaheen Bagh in the national capital last December. It said that public places cannot be occupied indefinitely like during the Shaheen Bagh protests. The judgment upheld the right to peaceful protest against a law but made it unequivocally clear that public ways and public spaces cannot be occupied, and that too indefinitely. In a democracy, the rights of free speech and peaceful protest were indeed "treasured". They were to be encouraged and respected, the court said. But these rights were also subject to reasonable restrictions imposed in the interest of sovereignty, integrity and public order. Police regulations also weighed in. Fundamental rights do not live in isolation. The right of the protester has to be balanced with the right of the commuter. They have to co-exist in mutual respect. The bench also said that Delhi Police ought to have taken action to clear Shaheen Bagh area from the protesters. It was entirely the responsibility of the administration to prevent encroachments in public spaces.

3. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of RBI's senior-most Executive Director M. Rajeshwar Rao as Deputy Governor. He succeeds N.S. Vishwanathan, who

stepped down in March, three months ahead of his extended tenure on health grounds. The RBI needs four Deputy Governors: two from within the ranks, a commercial banker and an economist to head the monetary policy department.

4. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Emmanuelle Charpentier of France and Jennifer Doudna of the U.S. won the Nobel Chemistry Prize for the gene-editing technique known as the CRISPR-Cas9 DNA snipping “scissors”, the first time a Nobel science prize has gone to a women-only team. Ms. Charpentier, 51, and Ms. Doudna, 56, are just the sixth and seventh women to receive the Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Using the tool, “researchers can change the DNA of animals, plants and microorganisms with extremely high precision”. The CRISPR-Cas9 tool has already contributed to significant gains in crop resilience, altering their genetic code to better withstand drought and pests. The technology has also led to innovative cancer treatments, and many experts hope it could one day make inherited diseases curable through gene manipulation. CRISPR’s relative simplicity and widespread applicability has, however, triggered the imaginations of rogue practitioners. In 2018 in China, scientist He Jiankui caused an international scandal when he used CRISPR to create what he called the first gene-edited humans.

5. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Global extreme poverty is expected to rise for the first time in 20 years because of the disruption caused by COVID-19, the World Bank said in its biennial Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report. The Poverty and Shared Prosperity series of report by World bank provides the latest and most accurate estimates on trends in global poverty and shared prosperity. For more than two decades, extreme poverty was steadily declining. Now, for the first time in a generation, the quest to end poverty has suffered its worst setback. ‘Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020: Reversals of Fortune’ presents new estimates of COVID-19’s impacts on global poverty and inequality. The pandemic may push another 88 million to 115 million into extreme poverty or having to live on less than \$1.50 per day, resulting in a total of 150 million such individuals. Some 9.1% to 9.4% of the world will be affected by extreme poverty in 2020.

6. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Dinesh Kumar Khara has assumed charge as the new Chairman of the country's largest lender State Bank of India. Mr. Khara took over from Rajnish Kumar. Mr. Khara has been appointed as SBI Chairman for a period of three years. On August 28, Bank Board Bureau had recommended the appointment of Dinesh Kumar Khara to the post of chairman of SBI. He was instrumental in merging five associate banks and

Bharatiya Mahila Bank with SBI effective April 2017. State Bank of India (SBI) is an Indian multinational, public sector bank headquartered in Mumbai. Evolution Of SBI The origin of the State Bank of India goes back to the first decade of the nineteenth century with the establishment of the Bank of Calcutta in Calcutta in 1806. Three years later the bank was re-designed as the Bank of Bengal (in 1809). The Bank of Bombay (1840) and the Bank of Madras (1843) followed the Bank of Bengal. These three banks remained at the apex of modern banking in India till their amalgamation as the Imperial Bank of India in 1921. Pursuant to the provisions of the State Bank of India Act of 1955, the RBI acquired a controlling interest in the Imperial Bank of India. On 1 July 1955, the Imperial Bank of India became the State Bank of India. In 2008, the Government of India acquired the RBI's stake in SBI so as to remove any conflict of interest because the RBI is the country's banking regulatory authority.

7. Ans) (c)

Explanation

Avian Botulism is a neuro-muscular illness caused by Botulinum (natural toxin) that is produced by bacteria, Clostridium botulinum. The illness affects the nervous system of birds, leading to paralysis in their legs and wings. The bacteria is commonly found in the soil, rivers, and seawater. It affects both humans and animals. The bacteria also need anaerobic (absence of oxygen) conditions and do not grow in acidic conditions. The outbreaks of avian botulism tend to occur when average temperatures are above 21 degrees celsius, and during droughts.

8. Ans) (a)

Explanation

The Nobel Prize in Physics for the year 2020 was awarded to three astrophysicists Roger Penrose from the UK, Reinhard Genzel from Germany, and Andrea Ghez from the USA. Roger Penrose received half of this year's prize for the discovery that a black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity. The term 'black hole' was coined in the mid-1960s by American Physicist John Archibald Wheeler. Black hole refers to a point in space where matter is so compressed as to create a gravity field from which even light cannot escape. Black-holes were theorized by Albert Einstein in 1915.

9. Ans) (b)

Explanation

India remains committed to the policy of No First Use (NFU) against nuclear weapon states and non-use against non-nuclear-weapon states. In 2019, there were hints of gradual shifts to circumstantial usage, however, there have been no official revisions in the principle. Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty is a proposed international agreement that prohibits the production of two main components of nuclear weapons: highly-enriched Uranium and Plutonium.

10. Ans) (d)

Explanation

Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA): It allows both countries to have access to each other's designated military facilities for refueling and replenishment. This is a logistics support agreement signed in 2016. General Security of Military Information Agreement: GSOMIA allows militaries to share the intelligence gathered by them. It was signed in 2002 between India and USA. Communications and Information Security Memorandum of Agreement: Valid for 10 years, COMCASA aims to provide a legal framework for the transfer of highly sensitive communication security equipment from the USA to India that will streamline and facilitate interoperability between their armed forces. It is the most recent agreement signed in 2018. Industrial Security Annex (ISA): It is an extension to the GSOMIA, was signed at the 2+2 dialogue in 2019. ISA provides a framework for the exchange and protection of classified military information between the USA and Indian defence industries. BECA: The USA is looking forward to India signing the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-Spatial Cooperation (BECA), at the next India-USA 2+2 ministerial dialogue likely to be held in October 2020. BECA is the last of the four foundational agreements. It is yet to be signed between the two nations.