



# EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 17-07-2020

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### EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The 15th Summit between India and the European Union was held in virtual format. India was represented by PM Modi. The EU was represented by President of the European Council and President of the European Commission.

#### **Key highlights:**

The leaders adopted the "India-EU Strategic Partnership: A Roadmap to 2025" to guide cooperation between India and the EU over the next five years.

They welcomed the signing of the India-EURATOM Agreement on research and development cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

They also adopted a Joint Declaration on Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy.

They welcomed the upcoming renewal of the India-EU Science and Technology Agreement for another five years.

They welcomed the ongoing activity in India of the European Investment Bank and the upcoming planned investments of Euros 550 million in the Pune and Bhopal Metro Rail Projects.

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has delegated the powers for progressing urgent Capital Acquisition Cases upto Rs 300 crore to the Armed Forces to meet their emergent operational requirements. DAC delegates powers for progressing urgent Capital Acquisition Cases upto Rs 300 crore to Armed Forces. This will shrink the procurement timelines and ensure placement of orders within six months and commencement of deliveries within one year. A decision in this regard was taken during the special DCA meeting held under the chairmanship of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

3. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Government has decided to allow Invalid Pension to Armed Forces Personnel with less than 10 years of qualifying service. This pension is granted to the Armed Forces Personnel who is invalided out of service on account of disability which is accepted as Neither Attributable to Nor aggravated (NANA) by

Military Service. It will be available to those Armed Forces Personnel who were in service on or after 4th January 2019. Earlier, the minimum period of qualifying service actually rendered and required for invalid pension was ten years or more. By this decision, Armed Forces Personnel whose service is less than ten years and became invalided out of service on account of any bodily or mental infirmity which is NANA by Military service and which permanently incapacitates them from military service as well as civil re-employment will be benefited.

4. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

The first trial container ship from Kolkata to Agartala through Chattogram port of Bangladesh was flagged off by the Union Shipping Minister. The trial consignment includes TMT steel bars destined for Tripura and pulses for Assam. After reaching Chattogram, the consignment will move to Agartala on Bangladeshi trucks. The trial run follows the understanding reached between the two countries during the visit of PM Sheikh Hasina to India in 2019 when the Standard Operating Procedures (SoP) for the use of Chattogram and Mongla ports for transit of goods was finalised. The operationalisation of these ports of transit for Indian goods will significantly reduce the time taken in carrying goods through Bangladesh while it will also enhance business and revenue for Bangladesh as its trucks and vessels will be used to move the Indian cargo. In recent years both the countries have enhanced cooperation in shipping and inland water trade. Under the Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade, in addition to the six existing Ports of Call, five more in each country have been added recently.

5. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

As per World Intellectual Property Indicators-2019 Report, India has emerged as the top tenth nation in the ranking of the total (resident and abroad) Intellectual Property (IP) filing activity. With government push to schemes like 'Make in India', 'Skill India' and now 'Atma-nirbhar Bharat', IP Filing and grant activity is likely to increase. IP-intensive industries have been identified as an important and integral part of a country's economy and account for more jobs and a larger share of its GDP. The National IPR Policy, launched in May 2016, to promote strong IP regime in the country encourages innovation to achieve Country's industrial and economic development goals. This will provide efficient IP ecosystem and build up pace of industrial growth in the country.

6. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has given approval to the first fully indigenously developed Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Conjugate Vaccine. This vaccine is used for active immunization against invasive disease and pneumonia caused by “Streptococcus pneumonia” in infants. The vaccine is administered in an intramuscular manner. This is the first indigenously developed vaccine in the field of pneumonia. The vaccine has been developed by Serum Institute of India, Pune. Streptococcus pneumonia (pneumococcus) is a Gram-positive bacterium that is responsible for the majority of community-acquired pneumonia. It is a commensal organism in the human respiratory tract, meaning that it benefits from the human body, without harming it. However, infection by pneumococcus may be dangerous, causing not only pneumonia, but also bronchitis, otitis media, septicemia, and meningitis.

7. Ans) (b)

Explanation

Pakistan and China have signed an agreement for the 700 MW Azad Pattan hydel power project on the Jhelum river in Sudhnoti district of Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK).

The 1.5-billion USD project is under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The Azad Pattan project is one of five hydropower schemes on the Jhelum, the other four are Mahl, Kohala, Chakothe Hattian and Karot projects.

Azad Pattan, Kohala and Karot are being developed under the CPEC framework.

8. Ans) (d)

Explanation

Melghat Tiger Reserve lies in Melghat Forests of Amravati district in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra bordering Madhya Pradesh in the North and East. It is a part of the Satpura-Maikal landscape. Nagarjunsagar-Srisaigham Tiger Reserve, Andhra Pradesh is the largest tiger reserve in India. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

Pench Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh is home to the largest number of tigers in India.

9. Ans) (a)

Explanation

Biocatalysis refers to the use of natural substances from biological sources (such as enzymes) to speed up (catalyze) chemical reactions. Cryogenic reactions are chemical reactions performed at very low temperatures (below  $-150\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ).

10. Ans) (b)

Explanation

Trans-shipment Terminal is a terminal at a port which handles containers, stores them temporarily and transfers them to other ships for the onward destination.

It basically acts as a switching point for cargo carried by deep-sea vessels operating on trans-continental trade routes.

International Container Trans-shipment Terminal (ICTT) is the country's first trans-shipment hub - Recently, the Ministry of Shipping reviewed the development of ICTT which is locally known as the Vallarpadam Terminal. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Vallarpadam Terminal is a part of the Cochin Port in Kochi, Kerala.

It is located on Vallarpadam Island.