



# EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 21-08-2020

### EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

Government of India has set up a National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19.

The purpose of the group is to keep India in the forefront of any ongoing effort worldwide to innovate, prepare, produce and launch candidate vaccines to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, for India and for the world.

Through the inputs and support of the External Affairs Ministry, this Expert Group will help to connect Indian companies that are interested in any candidate vaccines, and facilitate the process of ensuring that the relevant testing data is made available to our regulatory agencies.

2. Ans) (b)

Explanation :

The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) relaxed norms to pay 50 per cent of average wages of three months as unemployment benefit between March 24 and December 31 this year in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ESIC took the decision in its 182nd meeting held yesterday under the Chairmanship of Union Labour and Employment Minister.

ESIC is implementing the Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyna Yojna under which unemployment benefit is paid to the workers covered under Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Scheme.

The ESIC has decided to extend the scheme for one more year upto 30th June next year. It has been decided to relax the existing conditions and the amount of relief for workers who have lost employment during the Covid-19 pandemic period.

3. Ans) (d)

Explanation :

Awards for Swachh Survekshan 2020, the fifth edition of the annual cleanliness urban survey conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India were announced.

Swachh Survekshan 2020 surveyed a total of 4242 cities, 62 Cantonment Boards and 97 Ganga Towns.

Indore won the title of the Cleanest City of India and Surat and Navi Mumbai won the second and third position respectively (in the > 1 lakh population category). Indore has created Record by Winning Title of Cleanest City Fourth Time in A Row.

Chhattisgarh won the title of the Cleanest State of India in the > 100 ULB category while Jharkhand was adjudged the Cleanest State of India in the <100 ULB category.

Among the towns along the banks of river Ganga, Varanasi has been awarded the cleanest town award.

New Delhi has been awarded as the cleanest capital city in the country.

Jalandhar Cantonment Board was conferred the cleanest cantonment board in the country.

Ahmedabad in Gujarat was awarded for being the cleanest city with over 40 lakh population.

4. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

Union Tribal Affairs Minister e-launched the tertiary processing centres of 'Trifood Project' of TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs in Raigad, Maharashtra and Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh.

Being implemented by TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs in association with Ministry of Food Processing (MoFPI), TRIFOOD aims to enhance the income of tribals through better utilization of and value addition to the MFPs collected by the tribal forest gatherers.

To achieve this, as a start, two Minor Forest Produce (MFP) processing units will be set up.

The unit in Raigad, Maharashtra that will be used for value addition to mahua, amla, custard apple and jamun and will produce mahua drink, amla juice, candy, jamun juice and custard apple pulp.

The multi-commodity processing centre in Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh will be used for the processing of commodities like mahua, amla, honey, cashew, tamarind, ginger, garlic and other fruits and vegetables.

5. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Recently, India's online pharmacy market saw two significant merger and acquisition deals — Reliance Retail picking up majority stake in Chennai-based e-pharmacy Netmeds, and PharmEasy moving to merge with smaller rival Medlife.

The government had floated draft regulations for e-pharmacies but these guidelines never saw light of the day. Regulations for online pharmacy players have been in the works since 2016 but are yet to come out.

Draft rules for e-pharmacies sought to define the online sale of medicines, what an e-prescription means and what type of licences online firms would need to get from regulators to operate.

The draft had proposed to allow e-pharmacies to get a central licence to operate from the country's apex drug regulator, which could be used to allow it to operate across the country.

It also proposed to define e-pharmacies in a way that would allow them to distribute, sell and stock medicines.

6. Ans) (b)

Explanation :

Bangladesh is discussing an almost \$1 billion loan from China for a comprehensive management and restoration project on the Teesta river.

Teesta River, is a 315 km long river that rises in the eastern Himalayas, flows through the Indian states of Sikkim and West Bengal through Bangladesh and enters the Bay of Bengal.

It forms the border between Sikkim and West Bengal. In India, it flows through Darjeeling district and the cities of Rangpo, Jalpaiguri and Mekhliganj. It joins the Jamuna River at Fulchhari in Bangladesh.

India and Bangladesh have been engaged in a long-standing dispute over water-sharing in the Teesta. More importantly, Bangladesh's discussions with China come at a time when India is particularly wary about China following the standoff in Ladakh.

7. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

The government has set targets of 10 per cent bioethanol blending of petrol by 2022 and to raise it to 20 per cent by 2030 under the ethanol blending programme to curb carbon emissions and reduce India's dependence on imported crude oil.

1G and 2G bioethanol plants are set to play a key role in making bio-ethanol available for blending but face challenges in attracting investments from the private sector.

1G bioethanol plants utilise sugarcane juice and molasses, by-products in the production of sugar, as raw material, while 2G plants utilise surplus biomass and agricultural waste to produce bioethanol.

The three state-run OMCs Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. are currently in the process of setting up 2G bio-ethanol plants.

8. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

Fresh hurdles have emerged in the road to peace in Nagaland.

After a framework agreement was signed in 2015 between the Centre and the Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagalim, or the NSCN (I-M), the largest of the extremist groups in the peace process, there have been more than 100 rounds of talks.

The latest involves the demand by the NSCN (I-M) to remove Nagaland Governor R.N. Ravi as the Centre's interlocutor for the 23-year-old peace process and his alleged tweaking of the original framework agreement.

On August 3, 2015, the Centre signed a framework agreement with the NSCN (I-M) to resolve the Naga issue, but both sides maintained secrecy about its contents.

9. Ans) (c)

### Explanation

In 2019, Egypt, Cyprus, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan and Palestinian Authority signed the East Med Gas Forum (EMGF) foundation charter, creating a platform for East Mediterranean natural gas cooperation. Cairo will be the headquarters of the forum. Turkey and Hungary are not members of EMGF.

### 10. Ans) (d)

#### Explanation

Recently, the Odisha government has decided to give a facelift to the 11th century Lingaraj Temple, akin to its pre-350-year structural status.

This is a part of the Lingaraj Temple Heritage Development Project under Ekamra plan.

Through Ekmarara plan, it is expected that heritage redevelopment will enhance the attraction of Bhubaneswar as a tourist site and claim for a UNESCO heritage site will be stronger.

Lingaraj Temple, built in 11th century AD, is dedicated to Lord Shiva and is considered as the largest temple of the city Bhubaneswar. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

It is believed to have been built by the Somvanshi King Yayati I.

The main tower of this temple measures 180-feet in height.

It is built in red stone and is a classic example of Kalinga style of architecture.