



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 23-09-2020

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

Rajya Sabha passed the Indian Institutes of Information Technology Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020 in New Delhi today. It has been already passed by Lok Sabha. The Bill seeks to declare five IIITs set up under the PPP mode in Surat, Bhopal, Bhagalpur, Agartala, and Raichur as institutions of national importance. Currently, these institutes are registered as Societies under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and do not have the power to grant degrees or diplomas. On being declared institutions of national importance, the five institutes will be granted the power to grant degrees. The Bill seeks amendment to the Indian Institutes of Information Technology Act, 2014 and the Indian Institutes of Information Technology (Public-private Partnership) Act, 2017. The central government will contribute fifty percent towards the expenses of institutes functioning under the PPP mode. 35 per cent will be borne by the states and fifteen per cent by the industries. As a special impetus to north eastern states, central government will bear over fifty seven per cent of the expenses whereas industries will contribute around seven percent to the Institutes there.

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

Parliament has passed the Rashtriya Raksha University Bill 2020. The Rajya Sabha cleared this Bill on September 22, while the Lok Sabha had passed it earlier. The Bill establishes the Raksha Shakti University, Gujarat (established under the Raksha Shakti University Act, 2009) as a University called the Rashtriya Raksha University in Gujarat. The Bill declares the University to be an institution of national importance. The Bill also repeals the 2009 act. The Bill provides for several authorities under the University. These include: (i) the Governing Body, to frame the broad policies and programmes of the University, (ii) the Executive Council, which will be the principal executive body, and (iii) the Academic Council, which will specify the academic policies of the University. The functions of the University include: (i) providing instructions and research in police sciences, including coastal policing and cyber security, (ii) establishing and maintaining colleges, and (iii) prescribing courses, holding exams, and granting degrees and other distinctions.

3. Ans) (d)

Explanation :

Lok Sabha passed the Industrial Relations Code, 2020.

Efforts made by the Government under the code for quickly resolving disputes of the workers are:

Provision for two members instead of one member in the Industrial Tribunal. In case of absence of one member, work can still be undertaken smoothly. Provision for taking the matter straight to the Tribunal in case the dispute is not resolved at conciliation stage. At present, the case is referred to the Tribunal by the appropriate Government. Implementation of award in 30 days after Tribunal award. After recognition of Fixed Term Employment, workers will get the option of Fixed Term Employment instead of contract labour. Under this, they would get benefits of hours of work, salary, social security and other welfare benefits like a Regular Employee. With the objective of better and effective participation of Trade Unions, a provision for “Negotiating Union” and “Negotiating Council” has been made for undertaking negotiation on any dispute. Provision has been made for giving recognition to Trade Unions at Central and State level.

4. Ans) (b)

Explanation :

Lok Sabha passed the Code on Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code, 2020. Free health check-up once a year by the employer for workers which are more than a certain age. Legal right for getting Appointment Letter given to workers for the first time. Cine Workers have been designated as Audio Visual Worker, so that more and more workers get covered under the OSH code. Earlier, this security was being given to artists working in films only.

5. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

Lok Sabha passed the Social Security Code, 2020. Extending the reach of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC): Effort have been made to provide right to health security under ESIC to maximum possible workers:-

The facility of ESIC would now be provided in all 740 districts. At present, this facility is being given in 566 districts only. Establishments working in hazardous sectors would mandatorily be linked with ESIC, even if there is only one worker working in it. Provision for making scheme for linking unorganised sector and Gig workers with ESIC. Option to link workers working in Plantations is being given to Plantation owners. Option for becoming member of ESIC is also being given to establishments with less than 10 workers. Extending the reach of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO):

EPFO's coverage would be applicable on all establishments having 20 workers. At present, it was applicable only on establishments included in the Schedule. Option to join EPFO is also being given to establishments having less than 20 workers. Schemes would be formulated for bringing workers coming under the category of 'Self-employed' or falling under any other category under the aegis of EPFO.

Provision has been made to formulate various schemes for providing comprehensive social security to workers in unorganised sector. A “Social Security Fund” will be created on the financial side in order to implement these schemes. Work to bring newer forms of employment created with the changing technology like “platform worker or gig worker” into the ambit of social security has been done in the Social Security Code. Provision for Gratuity has been made for Fixed Term Employee and there would not be any condition for minimum service period for this.

6. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

The President of India Ram Nath Kovind will confer the National Service Scheme (NSS) Awards for the year 2018-19 on 24th September, 2020. The National Service Scheme (NSS) Award for the year 2018-19 will be given to 42 awardees in 3 different categories like University/ +2 Council, NSS Units and their Programme Officers and NSS Volunteers. Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports confers every year the National Service Scheme Award to recognize contributions towards voluntary community service made by the Universities/ Colleges, (+2) Councils, Senior Secondary, NSS Units/ Programme Officers and NSS Volunteers, with a view to further promote NSS in the country. NSS is a Centrally Sector Scheme which was launched in the year 1969 with the primary objective of developing the personality and character of the student youth through voluntary community service. The NSS volunteers work on issues of social relevance including (i) literacy and education, (ii) health, (iii) environment conservation, (iv) social service programmes, (v) programmes for empowerment of women, (vi) programmes connected with economic development activities, (vii) rescue and relief during calamities, etc. At present, NSS has about 40 lakh volunteers on its rolls spread over the country.

7. Ans) (b)

Explanation

In 1973, the Dhebar Commission created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category, who are less developed among the tribal groups. In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as PVTGs. Among the 75 listed PVTG's the highest number are found in Odisha and not Madhya Pradesh. A PVTG is a Govt of India classification for tribes based on their:

Relative physical isolation,

Stagnant or declining population,

Low levels of literacy,

Absence of written language,

Pre-agricultural stage of economy, such as hunting, food gathering, shifting cultivation and terrace cultivation. 75 tribal groups have been categorized by the Ministry of Home Affairs as PVTGs, while the Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements the Scheme of 'Development of PVTGs' exclusively for them.

Recently, six members of two Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (Bondas and Didiayis) in Odisha contracted Covid-19. Of the 62 tribal groups in Odisha, 13 are recognised as PVTGs - the highest in the country. The PVTGs of the state have been identified as: Bonda, Birhor, Chuktia, Didayi, Dongaria Kandha, Juang, Kharia, Kutia Kondh, Lanjia Saora, Lodha, Mankirida, Paudi Bhuyan and Saora.

8. Ans) (a)

Explanation

Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) are instruments that work like mutual funds. They are designed to pool small sums of money from a number of investors to invest in assets that give cash flow over a period of time. Part of this cash flow would be distributed as dividend back to investors. The InvITs listed on the stock exchange are IRB InvIT Fund and India Grid Trust. InvITs are regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014.

9. Ans) (c)

Explanation

Komodo dragons are the largest and heaviest lizards on Earth. They have long, flat heads with rounded snouts, scaly skin, bowed legs, and huge, muscular tails. They have venom glands loaded with toxins which have been shown to secrete anticoagulants. Komodo dragons have thrived in the harsh climate of Indonesia's Lesser Sunda Islands for millions of years. They prefer the islands' tropical forests but can be found across the islands. Komodo National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is situated in the Island of Komodo (eastern Indonesia) and is the only habitat for this lizard species.

10. Ans) (c)

Explanation

Neutrinos are the second most abundant particles in the world (about a billion of them pass through a cubic centimeter of space every second), after photons, or the light particle. Neutrinos are subatomic fundamental particles, with no charge and little or zero mass that interacts only via the weak subatomic force and gravity. Neutrinos are created by various radioactive decays; during a supernova, by cosmic rays striking atoms etc. Determination of neutrino masses is one of the most important open problems in physics today. Neutrino Detectors are used to study the details of the interactions of these particles.

An India based Neutrino Observatory (INO) is going to be set up in Bodi West Hills, in Theni district, Tamil Nadu. National Neutrino Collaboration group (NNCG) includes more than 50 scientists from about 15 Institutes and Universities in India and is tasked with detailing various aspects related to INO activity and come up with a proposal for an underground neutrino laboratory.