



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 24-11-2020

EXPLANATION

1. Ans: c

The government recently notified extension of payment deadline for the direct tax legacy dispute resolution scheme (Vivad se Vishwas).

It is aimed to reduce pending income tax litigation, generate timely revenue for the government and benefit taxpayers by providing them peace of mind, certainty and savings on account of time and resources that would otherwise be spent on the long-drawn and vexatious litigation process.

2. Ans: b

India became the fourth country in the world to have its independent regional navigation satellite system recognised by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) as a part of the World Wide Radio Navigation System (WWRNS).

The IRNSS is an independent regional navigation satellite system developed by India. It is designed to provide accurate position information service to assist in the navigation of ships in the Indian Ocean waters. It could replace the US-owned Global Positioning System (GPS) in the Indian Ocean extending up to approximately 1500 km from the Indian boundary.

3. Ans: d

The IMO is the United Nations' specialized agency responsible for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine and atmospheric pollution by ships.

The IMO's policies or conventions have a serious impact on every aspect of shipping including the cost of maritime trade.

The IMO, like any other UN agency, is primarily a secretariat, which facilitates decision-making processes on all maritime matters through meetings of member states. The binding instruments are brought in through the conventions — to which member states sign on to for compliance — as well as amendments to the same and related codes.

The IMO currently lists India as among the 10 states with the “largest interest in international seaborne trade”.

4. Ans: a



5. Ans: b

BRICS is the acronym coined for an association of five major emerging national economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

The BRICS members are known for their significant influence on regional affairs; all are members of G20. Since 2009, the BRICS nations have met annually at formal summits. The 12th BRICS summit was hosted virtually by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The main achievement of BRICS is the New Development Bank, with each country contributing equally to its equity.

6. Ans: b

Explanation :

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) towed a fuel tanker back to safe waters. The tanker was dangerously drifting towards the pristine Katchal Island in Nicobar due to power failure.

Katchal is one of the Nicobar Islands, India. It was previously known as Tihanyu. It is inhabited by Nicobari Tribes and Migrated Tamilians (For Rubber plantation workers under Sastri-Srimao Bandaranayaka Pact of 1964). Hence option (b) is correct.

7. Ans: a

Explanation :

A tunnel boring machine has been stuck in Mumbai for the past one year. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has not been able to retrieve it due to lack of expertise and an overreliance on foreign entities to operate these machines.

With major cities in India opting for urban transportation systems underground, Tunnel Boring Machines,

that help dig tunnels underground, are being deployed extensively in the country.

Hence Statement 1 is correct: They are used to excavate tunnels through a variety of soil and rock strata — from hard rock to sand. These machines are capable of digging tunnels with diameters 3.3 feet to 58 feet. In India, TBMs have been deployed in Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Chennai, Bangalore and Kolkata, among others, to help build underground Metro lines. These TBMs are also being used to help build water tunnels as well as the coastal road in Mumbai.

Hence Statement 2 is incorrect: The global TBM market is at present dominated by China. As per vendors, nearly 90 per cent of the TBMs deployed across India have a Chinese connection. China has a dominating presence in the heavy equipment machinery segment and officials claim it is not possible to replace the sources of these types of equipment overnight.

Hence option (a) is correct.

8. Ans: d

Explanation :

Tamil Nadu is readying contingency plans to face Cyclone ‘Nivar’. The meteorological department has said that Nivar may make a landfall on Wednesday.

Hence option (d) is correct.

The Bay of Bengal will see its second Severe Cyclone of the year, after Super Cyclone Amphan formed in May. It is likely to hit Tamil Nadu coast by midweek. The next three days shall see extremely heavy rain, strong winds along with highly rough sea conditions. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast the development of a cyclone in the Southwest region of the Bay of Bengal, off Tamil Nadu coast. After cyclone Gaja in 2018, this will be the second cyclone to cross Tamil Nadu in the last two years. The Met department has said that it will strengthen into a cyclone. Once intensified, it would acquire its name ‘Nivar’, proposed by Iran.

9. Ans: b

Explanation :

Hence Statement 1 is incorrect: On November 24, China’s Chang’e-5 lunar mission will become the first probe in over four decades (Since 1976) to attempt to bring back samples of lunar rock from a previously unexplored portion of the Moon. The spacecraft is set to return to Earth around December 15.

Hence Statement 2 is correct: It is the Chinese National Space Administration’s (CNSA) lunar sample return mission that is set to launch on November 24 from the Wenchang Space Launch Center on Hainan Island in China.

The goal of the mission is to land in the Mons Rumker region of the moon, where it will operate for one lunar day, which is two weeks long and return a 2 kg sample of the lunar rock possibly by digging about 2 metres deep into the surface of the Moon. The mission comprises a lunar orbiter, a lander and an ascent

probe that will lift the lunar samples back into orbit and return them back to Earth. The probe is named after the Chinese Moon goddess who is traditionally accompanied by a white or jade rabbit.

Early in 2019, China's Chang'e-4 probe successfully transmitted images from the far side of the Moon, also referred to as the dark side. This was the first probe to land in this portion of the Moon.

Hence option (b) is correct.

10. Ans: a

Explanation :

The Italian Culture Ministry announced the discovery of well-preserved remains of two men, who perished during the volcanic eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. The eruption was a catastrophic event that destroyed the ancient Roman city of Pompeii and killed around 16,000 people.

Vesuvius is located in southern Italy near the coastal city of Naples, the 4,203-ft tall Vesuvius is the only active volcano in mainland Europe. It has been classified as a complex volcano (also called a compound volcano), one that consists of a complex of two or more vents.

It typically has explosive eruptions and pyroclastic flows — defined as a high-density mix of hot lava blocks, pumice, ash and volcanic gas. It has erupted more than 50 times, and is considered among the most dangerous volcanoes in the world due to its proximity to Naples and surrounding towns. Its last serious eruption, lasting two weeks, was in 1944 during World War II, which left 26 Italian civilians dead and around 12,000 displaced.

Hence option (a) is correct.