



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 03-08-2020

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

Adopting a zero tolerance policy on security violations on social media and smartphones to prevent loss of classified information, the Indian Army has issued a long list of dos and don'ts to its personnel regarding usage of smartphones.

The Counter Intelligence (CI) units of the Military Intelligence (MI) have been asked to be more proactive in detecting violation of protocols for social media and smartphones. The guidelines have spelt out strict action to be taken against violators of social media and smartphone handling instructions under provisions of IPC/Official Secrets Act/Army Act/IT Act. Periodic surprise checks will be made on orders of formation commanders in order to ensure that security lapses are nipped in bud and that irresponsible handling of smartphones of social media is discouraged. Number of social media sites and applications had been banned for serving personnel. These included Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Tinder, Tumblr, Reddit etc. With social media boom and the penetration of smartphones among service personnel due to their affordability, the focus of espionage activities of intelligence agencies of inimical nations has shifted from physical domain to social media/cyber domain.

2. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

Recently, the Haryana government has introduced 'Samadhan-se-vikas', a one-time settlement scheme for recovery of External Development Charges (EDC). The new scheme called 'Samadhan se Vikas' is modelled on the central scheme of 'Vivad se Vishwas-2020'. The scheme will be applicable to the full outstanding EDC including interest as well as penal interest. Several real estate giants in Haryana have not deposited hundreds of crores of rupees worth mandatory EDC for the residential and commercial colonies they have built across Haryana. In a bid to recover this massive sum, Haryana government introduced this scheme. The developer is supposed to pay EDC to civic authorities for maintenance of civic amenities within the periphery of the developed project including construction of roads, water and electricity supply, landscaping, maintenance of drainage and sewage systems, waste management etc. The EDC is decided by the civic authorities.

3. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

A new international study has suggested that the smallpox was in existence as early as during the Viking age in the 8th century CE. Until now, the earliest confirmed case of the disease was found in the mummified remains of a 17th-century Lithuanian child. Smallpox was an infectious disease caused by one of two virus variants, Variola major and Variola minor. It was contagious i.e. spreads from one person to another. The initial symptoms of the disease included fever and vomiting. This was followed by formation of sores in the mouth and a skin rash. Over a number of days the skin rash turned into characteristic fluid-filled bumps with a dent in the center. The risk of death following contracting the disease was about 30%, with higher rates among babies. The last naturally occurring case was

diagnosed in October 1977, and the World Health Organization (WHO) certified the global eradication of the disease in 1980.

4. Ans) (b)

Explanation :

Amid sliding prices of maize in the wake of the Covid-19 lockdown, the Centre has notified norms for import of 5 lakh tonnes of maize under Tariff Rate Quota Scheme during the current financial year at a concessional customs duty of 15 %. At present, maize attracts 50 % import duty. Under the scheme, the government allows import of four products—maize (corn), “milk and cream in powder, granules”, crude sunflower seed or safflower oil and fractions thereof; and refined rape, colza or mustard oil and fractions thereof—at concessional rates of customs duty. Maize farmers in Bihar, who account for over 80 % of India’s 6-7 million tonnes (mt) of annual production of rabi maize, are facing difficulties in selling their produce as prices have gone down to Rs 1,100-1,250 per quintal.

5. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

Around 30% of the 65,810 Covid-19 cases diagnosed in Delhi between June 14 and July 12 were done using rapid antigen tests. Rapid antigen detection test for Covid-19 is a test on swabbed nasal samples that detects antigens (foreign substances that induce an immune response in the body) that are found on or within the SARS-CoV-2 virus. It is a point-of-care test, performed outside the conventional laboratory setting, and is used to quickly obtain a diagnostic result.

Antigens are molecules capable of stimulating an immune response. Each antigen has distinct surface features, or epitopes, resulting in specific responses. Antibodies (immunoglobins) are Y-shaped proteins produced by B cells of the immune system in response to exposure to antigens.

6. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) and ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) have entered into a MoU to conserve the Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Genetic Resources (MAPGRs). The conservation will be done at designated space of ICAR-NBPGR in long-term storage module in the National Gene bank and/or at Regional Station for medium term storage module. National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) is under Ministry of AYUSH. ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) is under Department of Agricultural Research and Education.

7. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

The Uttar Pradesh government has told the Centre that it has planned to fix the minimum environment flow for the polluted stretches of at least six rivers. E-flow is the minimum limit of flow required to maintain a river in the desired environmental state. The Uttar Pradesh Government has planned to regulate the E-flow for polluted stretches of Saryu, Hindon, Ramganga, Betwa, Ghaghara and Rapti rivers. So far, Ganga is the only river in the country for which E-flow has been fixed by the Centre. In 2018, the Ministry of Jal Shakti had issued a notification, fixing the E-flow for Ganga.

8. Ans) (b)

Explanation :

China’s President Xi Jinping officially commissioned its BeiDou Navigation Satellite System constellation. China’s navigation system uses a network of satellites and can provide positional

accuracies of under ten metres (GPS provides positioning accuracies of under 2.2 metres). China initiated BeiDou in 1994. BeiDou offers services including accurate positioning, navigation and timing as well as short message communication. By completing BeiDou, China now has its own navigation system, which will compete with systems developed by other countries.

The Global Positioning System (GPS) is owned by the US government and operated by the US Air Force. Apart from this, Russia has its navigation system called GLONASS, the European Union (EU) has Galileo, while India's is called Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC).

9. Ans) (b)

Explanation :

Union Minister for Minority Affairs addressed Muslim women from across the country through virtual conference on the occasion of "Muslim Women Rights Day (1st August). The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019 makes all declaration of triple talaq (or talaq-e-biddat), including in written or electronic form, to be void (i.e. not enforceable in law) and illegal. The Government made the law against Triple Talaq to make effective the Supreme Court's judgement. One year has passed since the law against Triple Talaq was passed and there is a decline of about 82 per cent in Triple Talaq cases thereafter. If any such case was reported, the law has taken action. Several Muslim-majority nations of the world had declared Triple Talaq as illegal and un-Islamic much earlier. Egypt was the first Muslim nation which abolished this social evil in 1929. Pakistan did that in 1956.

10. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

Indian Express reporter Dipankar Ghose and the People's Archive of Rural India (PARI), a non-profit journalism website dedicated to reporting on rural India, has won this year's Prem Bhatia award for outstanding journalism. The Prem Bhatia Memorial Trust confers the awards for outstanding journalism. The trust had instituted the awards in 1995 in the memory of journalist Prem Bhatia, who died that year. The main objective of the Trust is to propagate the values of objective reporting, fearless pursuit of the truth and a commitment to improving the standards of journalism in India. Outstanding Political Reporting of The Year: An annual award of INR 2,00,000/- is given to an outstanding journalist who has reported the major political events of the year with objectivity. Outstanding Environmental Reporting of The Year: An annual award of INR.1,50,000/- is awarded for the journalist who has shown most promise in reporting on environmental, developmental or social affairs.