



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 09-07-2020

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Union Cabinet has approved further extension of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) as part of Economic Response to COVID-19, for another Five months from July to November, 2020. Under the Scheme it is proposed to distribute 9.7 Lakh MT cleaned whole Chana to States/UTs for distribution to all beneficiary households under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) @ 1kg per month free of cost under for next five months -July to November, 2020 at a total estimated cost of Rs.6,849.24 crore. About 19.4 crore households would be covered under the Scheme. All expenses on the extended PMGKAY are to be borne by the Central Government.

The distribution of pulses for the package emanated from robust availability of stock in the buffer which was set up in 2015-2016.

2. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for developing of Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs) for urban migrants/poor as a sub-scheme under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY – U). Existing vacant government funded housing complexes will be converted in ARHCs through Concession Agreements for 25 years. Complexes will revert to ULB after 25 years to restart next cycle like earlier or run on their own. Special incentives like use permission, 50% additional FAR/FSI, concessional loan at priority sector lending rate, tax reliefs at par with affordable housing etc. will be offered to private/ public entities to develop ARHCs on their own available vacant land for 25 years. A large part of workforce in manufacturing industries, service providers in hospitality, health and construction or other sectors, labourers, students etc. who come from rural areas or small towns seeking better opportunities will be the target beneficiary under ARHCs. Approximately, three Lakh beneficiaries will be covered initially under ARHCs. An expenditure of Rs 600 Crore is estimated in the form of Technology Innovation Grant which will be released for projects using identified innovative technologies for construction. Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has initiated an Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs) for urban migrants/poor as a sub-scheme under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban). The scheme was announced by the Finance Minister on 14 May, 2020.

3. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Researchers have reported that testing of oropharyngeal secretions may reduce the number of false negative results i.e. when a person carrying a pathogen tests negative. False negatives have been reported several times during the Covid-19 pandemic. These results have come up during nasal swab testing of patients who have seemingly recovered from the disease — but have later been found to be still carrying the virus. Now, researchers have reported that testing of oropharyngeal secretions — secretions from the part of the throat at the back of the mouth — may reduce the number of false negative results. They have published their findings in the Journal of Dental Research. The pharynx is the part of the throat behind the mouth and nasal cavity, and above the oesophagus and larynx. The human pharynx is conventionally divided into three sections: the nasopharynx, oropharynx, and laryngopharynx. The oropharynx lies behind the oral cavity, extending from the uvula to the level of the hyoid bone.

4. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

Union Cabinet has given its approval to a new pan India Central Sector Scheme-Agriculture Infrastructure Fund. The scheme shall provide a medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and financial support. Under the scheme, Rs. One Lakh Crore will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans to Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Marketing Cooperative Societies, FPOs, SHGs, Farmers, Joint Liability Groups (JLG), Multipurpose Cooperative Societies, Startups etc. Loans will be disbursed in four years starting with sanction of Rs. 10,000 crore in the current year and Rs. 30,000 crore each in next three financial years. All loans under this financing facility will have interest subvention of 3% per annum up to a limit of Rs. 2 crore. This subvention will be available for a maximum period of seven years.

Agri Infra fund will be managed and monitored through an online Management Information System (MIS) platform. The National, State and District level Monitoring Committees will be set up to ensure real-time monitoring and effective feed-back. The duration of the Scheme shall be from FY2020 to FY2029 (10 years).

5. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Pune-based molecular diagnostics company, Mylab Discovery Solutions has launched 'Compact XL' - India's first machine to automate the manual processes of molecular diagnostic tests such as RT-PCR

tests for Covid-19. Compact XL is a compact bench-top machine that will automate lab processes from sample handling to preparing RT-PCR ready tubes. It is a cartridge-based machine and can test multiple samples at the same time. It can be used for a wide range of RNA/DNA-based tests including Covid-19 RT-PCR tests. The machine can take input of various sample types such as plasma, tissue, sputum and swab. Compact XL will replace the need of 700 sq ft of clean room lab with a 4x3 benchtop machine and reduce the need of 3-4 expert technicians to just one, saving operational costs for labs.

6. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

The World Bank and the Government of India signed the \$750 million agreement for the MSME Emergency Response Programme. The World Bank's MSME Emergency Response Programme will address the immediate liquidity and credit needs of some 1.5 million viable MSMEs to help them withstand the impact of the current shock and protect millions of jobs.

The \$750 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), has a maturity of 19 years including a 5-year grace period.

Strategy: It will infuse liquidity to the MSME sector by de-risking lending from banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) to MSMEs through a range of instruments, including credit guarantees. Improving the funding capacity of key market-oriented channels of credit, such as the NBFCs and Small Finance Bank (SFBs), will help them respond to the urgent and varied needs of the MSMEs. The program will incentivize and mainstream the use of fintech and digital financial services in MSME lending and payments.

7. Ans) (a)

Explanation

Plague is caused by the bacteria *Yersinia pestis* usually found in small mammals and their fleas. There are two main clinical forms of plague infection: bubonic and pneumonic. Bubonic plague is the most common form and is characterized by painful swollen lymph nodes or 'buboes'. It is transmitted between animals and humans by the bite of infected fleas, direct contact with infected tissues and inhalation of infected respiratory droplets. Plague can be a very severe disease in people, with a case-fatality ratio of 30% to 60% for the bubonic type, and is always fatal for the pneumonic kind when left untreated.

8. Ans) (d)

Explanation

Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) is a United States federal law that imposed sanctions on Iran, North Korea, and Russia. CAATSA includes sanctions against countries that engage in significant transactions with Russia's defense and intelligence sectors. Hence, statement 2 is not correct. Thus, India could face USA sanctions for purchasing the S-400 Triumf missile defense system from Russia under the CAATSA. The S-400 is known as Russia's most advanced long-range surface-to-air missile defence system. China was the first foreign buyer to seal a government-to-government deal with Russia in 2014 for the system.

9. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Lithium is a light inflammable metal which is mainly used in lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries and has brought a transformation in modern communication devices and transportation. The scientists from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) have provided evidence that Lithium (Li) production is common among low mass Sun-like stars during their Helium (He) core burning phase (end of the star's core hydrogen-burning phase). It is produced by the process of Stellar nucleosynthesis, which means creation of chemical elements by nuclear fusion reactions within stars. It is also used in treatment of mental health disorders. For example, Lithium carbonate is a common treatment of bipolar disorder, helping to stabilize wild mood swings caused by the illness.

10. Ans) (c)

Explanation

The 'National Bureau of Plant Introduction' was renamed as 'National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources' (NBPGR) in January 1977. It is a nodal organisation in India for management of Plant Genetic Resources (PGR). It is one of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Institutes. ICAR is an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare. The establishment of the Bureau coincided with the advent of the Green Revolution and was in response to the realization of perceived effects of the Green Revolution on agrobiodiversity. It was in accordance with the international developments in the form of establishment of the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR), Rome, in 1974 (now renamed as International Plant Genetic Resources Institute). It has played a pivotal role in the improvement of various crop plants and diversification and development of agriculture in India through germplasm introduction from various institutes/organizations located in foreign countries and germplasm collection from within the country and abroad and conservation thereof.