



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 14-08-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Congress has appointed MPs Syed Naseer Hussain and Chhaya Verma as Rajya Sabha whips. The party now has the same number of whips and chief whips in the Upper House as in the Lok Sabha.

What is a whip?

A whip is an official of a political party who acts as the party's 'enforcer' inside the legislative assembly or house of parliament. Parties appoint a senior member from among their House contingents to issue whips — this member is called a Chief Whip, and he/she is assisted by additional Whips. India inherited the concept of the whip from the British parliamentary system.

2. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

A sitting of Parliament can be terminated by adjournment or adjournment sine die or prorogation or dissolution (in the case of the Lok Sabha). Adjournment: It suspends the work in a sitting for a specified time, which may be hours, days or weeks. Adjournment sine die: It means terminating a sitting of Parliament for an indefinite period. In other words, when the House is adjourned without naming a day for reassembly. The power of adjournment as well as adjournment sine die lies with the presiding officer (Speaker or Chairman) of the House. Prorogation: The President issues a notification for prorogation of the session after the business of a session is completed and the presiding officer declares the House adjourned sine die. The President can also prorogue the House while in session. Dissolution: Only the Lok Sabha is subject to dissolution. Rajya Sabha, being a permanent House, is not subject to dissolution.

3. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

India's cleanest city, Indore, in Madhya Pradesh has achieved another feat of being declared as the country's first 'water plus' certified city, under the Swachh Survekshan 2021.

4. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Dr K Sivan, Secretary, DOS and Chairman of ISRO recently inaugurated the 'Health QUEST study

(Health Quality Upgradation Enabled by Space Technology of ISRO)' through videoconferencing.

5. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

India and Saudi Arabia are conducting the first ever joint naval exercises "Al-Mohed Al-Hindi 2021" in the Arabian Gulf.

6. Ans:C

Explanation:

Aadi Pooram is celebrated in Tamil Nadu albeit in a subdued manner due to the Pandemic Restrictions. Aadi Pooram is also celebrated as the birth day of Andal, a famous Tamil Poet of Vaishnavite sect.

7. Ans:A

Explanation:

The Island of Evia is the second-largest Greek island in area and population. It is separated from Boeotia in mainland Greece by the narrow Euripus Strait. Wildfires have broken out in many parts of the country during a week-long heatwave, Greece's worst in three decades, with searing temperatures and hot winds Greece and Turkey have been battling devastating fires for nearly two weeks as the region suffered its worst heatwave in decades, which experts have linked to climate change.

8. Ans:B

Explanation:

The government is planning to sell its residual stakes in public sector firms like Paradeep Phosphates, Hindustan Zinc and Balco, which were privatised during the Atal Behari Vajpayee regime. The firms are staying highly profitable after the transfer of management control to a private player. Thus, selling these stakes could yield a significant revenue for the government. The government intends to complete the privatisation of Air India, BPCL, Shipping Corporation of India, BEML, Pawan Hans and Nilanchal Ispat Nigam Limited. More airports would also be offered as public-private partnership ventures. These are the transactions where there is sufficient interest from bidders and are the second stage of the due diligence and financial bidding is near completion. GAIL is also likely to come up with an offering soon through the Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) structure.

What are 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 minimum investment amount in an InvIT Initial Public Offering (IPO) is Rs 10 lakh, therefore, InvITs are suitable for high networth individuals, institutional and non-institutional investors.

InvITs are listed on exchanges just like stocks — through IPOs. However, the Indian InvIT market is not yet mature and has supported the formation of 10 InvITs till date of which only two are listed.

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:B

Explanation:

Sudan has decided to hand long-time autocrat Omar al-Bashir to the International Criminal Court along with other officials wanted over the Darfur conflict.

Background:

Mr. Bashir has been wanted by the ICC for more than a decade over charges of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Sudanese region.

What is Darfur conflict?

The Darfur war broke out in 2003 when non-Arab rebels took up arms complaining of systematic discrimination by Bashir's Arab-dominated government. The United Nations says 300,000 people were killed and 2.5 million displaced in the Darfur conflict.

10. Ans:C

Explanation:

Recently, Guinea confirmed the first recorded case of Marburg virus death in West Africa.

About Marburg virus Marburg virus disease (MVD) was formerly known as Marburg hemorrhagic fever. Marburg virus disease is a highly virulent disease that causes hemorrhagic fever, with a fatality ratio of up to 88%. It is in the same family as the virus that causes Ebola virus disease. Two large outbreaks that occurred simultaneously in Marburg and Frankfurt in Germany, and in Belgrade, Serbia, in 1967, led to the initial recognition of the disease. The outbreak was associated with laboratory work using African green monkeys (*Cercopithecus aethiops*) imported from Uganda. Symptoms: Headache, vomiting blood, muscle pains and bleeding through various orifices. Many patients develop severe hemorrhagic signs within seven days. Case fatality rates have varied from 24% to 88% in past outbreaks depending on virus strain and case management.

Transmission

Rousettus aegyptiacus, fruit bats of the Pteropodidae family, are considered to be natural hosts of

Marburg virus. The Marburg virus is transmitted to people from fruit bats and spreads among humans through human-to-human transmission. Once an individual is infected with the virus, Marburg can spread through human-to-human transmission via direct contact with the blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids of infected people, and with surfaces and materials contaminated with these fluids.