



# EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 22-03-2021

### EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The state government of Jharkhand has launched a campaign called SAAMAR to tackle malnutrition in the state. SAAMAR stands for Strategic Action for Alleviation of Malnutrition and Anemia Reduction.

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

‘Global Wage Report 2020-21: Wages and minimum wages in the time of COVID-19’ was recently released. Released by: International Labour Organisation The Report comments on various issues including on Indian workers having low average wages, longer hours. It also reported that the workers in Asia and the Pacific enjoyed the highest real wage growth among all regions over the period 2006–19. The report has taken into account the National Floor Level Minimum Wage which is Rs.176/- per day. However, actual wages are far higher. If the median of the minimum wages in different states is drawn, it would be Rs.269/- per day in India. Code on Wages, 2019 It universalises and creates a statutory right of minimum wages for all workers whether in organized or unorganised sector. A new concept of statutory floor wage has also been introduced in the Code on Wages. The Code also provides that the minimum wages are to be ordinarily reviewed and revised by the appropriate Governments in intervals not exceeding five years.

3. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The Lok Sabha has passed the supplementary demand for grants (second batch for 2020-21). What are Supplementary Demands for Grants? The supplementary demand for grants is needed for government expenditure over and above the amount for which Parliamentary approval was already obtained during the Budget session. Constitutional provisions: Supplementary, additional or excess grants and Votes on account, votes of credit and exceptional grants are mentioned in the Constitution of India 1949. Article 115: Supplementary, additional or excess grants. Article 116: Votes on account, votes of credit and exceptional grants. Procedure to be followed:

When grants, authorised by the Parliament, fall short of the required expenditure, an estimate is presented before the Parliament for Supplementary or Additional grants. These grants are presented and passed by the Parliament before the end of the financial year. When actual expenditure incurred exceeds the

approved grants of the Parliament, the Ministry of Finance presents a Demand for Excess Grant. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India bring such excesses to the notice of the Parliament. The Public Accounts Committee examines these excesses and gives recommendations to the Parliament. The Demand for Excess Grants is made after the actual expenditure is incurred and is presented to the Parliament after the end of the financial year in which the expenses were made.

4. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Key features of the Bill:

The Bill amends the Insurance Act, 1938 to increase the maximum foreign investment allowed in an Indian insurance company. The Bill increases the limit on foreign investment in an Indian insurance company from 49% to 74%, and removes restrictions on ownership and control. While control will go to foreign companies, the majority of directors and key management persons will be resident Indians who will be covered by law of the land.

Significance:

Insurance companies are facing liquidity pressure and the higher limit would help meet the growing capital requirement.

Background:

Foreign investment in the insurance sector was first permitted in the year 2000 up to 26%. Subsequently, vide an Amendment Act of 2015, this limit was raised to 49% of the paid-up equity capital of such company, which is Indian owned and controlled.

5. Ans) (d)

Explanation :

The government has questioned the methodology and data accuracy of the Global Hunger Index (GHI) report, alleging that children considered healthy were also counted to determine the ranking. The government has already written to NGO Welthungerhilfe, which compiles the report, expressing concerns about their methodology, data accuracy and sample size and was yet to hear from them.

What's the issue?

In the latest report, India was ranked below countries such as Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar when it was among the top 10 food-producing countries in the world. India was ranked at the 94th position out of 107 countries that were studied. What is Global Hunger Index? The report is a peer-reviewed publication released annually by Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide. It tracks hunger at global, regional and national levels.

6. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

State-owned Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. has entered into a joint venture with Israel-based battery technology startup Phinergy to develop aluminium-air technology based battery systems for electric vehicles and stationary storage, as well as hydrogen storage solutions.

What is an aluminium-air battery?

Aluminium-air batteries utilise oxygen in the air which reacts with an aluminium hydroxide solution to oxidise the aluminium and produce electricity.

Benefits:

Lower cost and more energy-dense alternative to lithium-ion batteries which are currently in widespread use for electric vehicles in India. Offer much greater range of 400 km or more per battery compared to lithium-ion batteries which currently offer a range of 150-200 kilometres per full charge. The aluminium plate in an aluminium-air battery is converted into aluminium trihydroxide over time and that aluminium can be reclaimed from aluminium trihydroxide or even traded directly for industrial uses.

Challenges:

Aluminium-air batteries cannot be recharged like lithium-ion batteries. Therefore, large scale use of aluminium-air battery based vehicles would require the wide availability of battery swapping stations.

Why is this technology important for India's EV push?

Currently, India is largely dependent on imports of lithium-ion batteries from China for electric vehicles. A viable alternative to lithium-ion batteries and boost the domestic manufacture of batteries will help meet India's growing demand for energy storage.

7. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

The International Day of Forests (also known as World Forestry Day) is celebrated every year on March 21. The theme for International Day of Forests 2021 is "Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being".

8. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The NewSpace India Limited will own and operate capital intensive space assets of ISRO as part of the space reforms process. NewSpace India Limited is in advance stage of discussion with the Department of Space to take ownership of two new communication satellites for commercial purpose. The transponders on these satellites will be leased to the private companies with DTH and Broadband services. Important value additions NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) is a Public Sector Enterprise (PSE) of Government of

India. It is a commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and a subsidiary company of Department of Science. Established in: 2019 Administrative control: Department of Space (DoS) and the Company Act 2013. Objective: To scale up industry participation in Indian space programmes. Headquarter: Bengaluru.

9. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

According to Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, India will implement a GPS-based toll collection system and remove all toll booths within a year. GPS-based toll collection system Toll collection will happen via GPS. The money will be collected based on GPS imaging of vehicles. 93% of the vehicles were paying toll using FASTag but the remaining 7% had still not adopted it despite paying double the toll. Vehicle Scrapping Policy The policy was first announced in the Union Budget for 2021-22. The automobile industry in India will see a jump in turnover to Rs.10 lakh crore from Rs. 4.5 lakh crore. The new policy provides for fitness tests after the completion of 20 years in the case of privately owned vehicles and 15 years in the case of commercial vehicles. Any vehicle that fails the fitness test or does not manage renewal of its registration certificate may be declared as an End of Life Vehicle. The policy will kick in for government vehicles from April 1, 2022. Mandatory fitness testing for heavy commercial vehicles will start from April 1, 2023. For all other categories of vehicles, including personal vehicles, it will start in phases from June 1, 2024.

10. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

According to the International Sericulture Commission, China is the largest producer and supplier of silk in the world. While, India is the second largest producer of silk and silk products. India has the unique distinction of being the only country producing all the four kinds of silk namely, Mulberry, Eri, Muga, Tasar (Tropical and Temperate both). Among them, mulberry silk is the most popular variety, which contributes around 79% of the country's silk production. The Govt. of India through Central Silk Board has been implementing a Central Sector Scheme "Silk Samagra" an Integrated Scheme for Development of Silk Industry (ISDSI) during the years 2017-18 to 2020-21 for the overall development of Silk industry in the Country with an aim & objective to scale up production by improving the quality and productivity and to empower downtrodden, poor & backward families through various activities of sericulture in the country. The raw silk production in the country has shown increasing trend during last five years due to implementation of the "Silk Samagra" scheme and other initiatives of Government.