



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 10-12-2020

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for Provision of Submarine Optical Fibre Cable Connectivity between Mainland (Kochi) and Lakshadweep Islands (KLI Project). The Project envisages provision of a direct communication link through a dedicated submarine Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) between Kochi and 11 Islands of Lakshadweep viz. Kavaratti, Kalpeni, Agati, Amini, Androth, Minicoy, Bangaram, Bitra, Chetlat, Kiltan & Kadmat. Financial implications: The estimated cost of implementation is about Rs. 1072 crore including operational expenses for 5 years. The Project would be funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund. Impact: The project will vastly improve telecommunication facility in the Lakshadweep Islands by providing large bandwidth. Target: The project is targeted to be completed by May 2023.

2. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) to boost employment in formal sector and incentivize creation of new employment opportunities during the Covid recovery phase under Atmanirbhar Bharat Package 3.0. Government of India will provide subsidy for two years in respect of new employees engaged on or after 1st October, 2020 and upto 30th June, 2021.

Government of India will pay both 12% employees' contribution and 12% employers' contribution i.e. 24% of wages towards Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) in respect of new employees in establishments employing upto 1000 employees for two years. Government of India will pay only employees' share of EPF contribution i.e. 12% of wages in respect of new employees in establishments employing more than 1000 employee for two years. An employee drawing monthly wage of less than Rs. 15000/- who was not working in any establishment registered with the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) before 1st October, 2020 and did not have a Universal Account Number or EPF Member account number prior to 1st October 2020 will be eligible for the benefit.

Any EPF member possessing Universal Account Number (UAN) drawing monthly wage of less than Rs. 15000/- who made exit from employment during Covid pandemic from 01.03.2020 to 30.09.2020 and did not join employment in any EPF covered establishment up to 30.09.2020 will also be eligible to avail benefit.

3. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for the proposal of DoT for setting up of Public Wi-Fi Networks by Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOAs) to provide public Wi-Fi service through Public Data Offices (PDOs) spread across the country to accelerate proliferation of Broadband Internet services through Public Wi-Fi network. This Public Wi-Fi Access Network Interface will be known as PM-WANI. PM-WANI eco-system will be operated by different players as described herein under: Public Data Office (PDO): It will establish, maintain, and operate only WANI compliant Wi-Fi Access Points and deliver broadband services to subscribers. Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA): It will be an aggregator of PDOs and perform the functions relating to Authorization and Accounting.

App Provider: It will develop an App to register users and discover WANI compliant Wi-Fi hotspots in the nearby area and display the same within the App for accessing the internet service. Central Registry: It will maintain the details of App Providers, PDOAs, and PDOs. To begin with, the Central Registry will be maintained by C-DoT. While no registration would be required for PDOs, PDOAs and App Providers will get themselves registered with DoT through online registration portal (SARALSANCHAR;) of DoT, without paying any registration fee. There shall be no license fee for providing Broadband Internet through these public Wi-Fi networks. The proposal will promote the growth of Public Wi-Fi Networks in the country and, in turn, will help in proliferation of Broadband Internet, enhancement of income and employment and empowerment of people.

4. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Union Cabinet has approved for provision of a Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) Scheme for providing Mobile Coverage in Arunachal Pradesh and two Districts of Assam, namely Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao, under the Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for North Eastern Region (NER). The project envisages to provide mobile coverage to 2374 uncovered villages (1683 in Arunachal Pradesh and 691 in two districts of Assam) at an estimated cost of implementation about Rs.2,029 crore including operational expenses for five years. The project would be funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund. The project is targeted to be completed by December, 2022. The work related to provision of 4G mobile services in identified uncovered villages will be awarded through open competitive bidding process as per extant USOF procedures.

5. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

India and UN-Based Better Than Cash Alliance organized a joint Peer learning exchange on fintech solutions for responsible digital payments at the last mile. Based at the United Nations, the Better Than

Cash Alliance is a partnership of governments, companies and international organizations that accelerates the transition from cash to responsible digital payments. The Alliance has 75 members which are committed to digitizing payments. The Alliance Secretariat works with members on their journey to digitize payments by: Providing advisory services based on their priorities. Sharing action-oriented research and fostering peer learning on responsible practices. Conducting advocacy at national, regional and global level. It was created in 2012. It was launched by the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the United States Agency for International Development, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Citigroup, the Ford Foundation, the Omidyar Network, and Visa Inc..

6. Ans) (b)

Explanation

A virtual meeting took place recently between an Indian Minister and his Swiss Counterpart. Both the Ministers reiterated the desire to move forward on the India-EFTA Trade & Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) negotiations. The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is the intergovernmental organisation of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. Scandinavian peninsula is part of northern Europe, it generally consists of the two countries of the Scandinavian Peninsula, Norway and Sweden, with the addition of Denmark. Sweden and Denmark are not the members of EFTA. EFTA countries are not part of the European Union (EU) with which India is negotiating a separate trade agreement called the India-EU Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement.

7. Ans) (a)

Explanation

The Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) is a process of certifying organic products, which ensures that their production takes place in accordance with laid-down quality standards. The certification is in the form of a documented logo or a statement. It is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.. It is only for farmers or communities that can organise and perform as a group within a village or a cluster of contiguous villages, and is applicable only to farm activities such as crop production, processing, and livestock rearing, and off-farm processing "by PGS farmers of their direct products". Lakshadweep is the first Union Territory to become 100% organic as all farming is carried out without the use of synthetic fertilisers and pesticides, providing access to safer food choices and making agriculture a more environmentally-friendly activity. Earlier in 2016, Sikkim became India's first "100 percent organic" State.

8. Ans) (b)

Explanation

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation was formed to promote the welfare of the people

of South Asia and to improve their quality of life, and to accelerate economic growth, among other things. Eight Member States: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The Secretariat of SAARC is located in Kathmandu (Nepal). SAARC Charter Day is observed annually on 8th December. This day marks the signing of the SAARC Charter in 1985 by the leaders of SAARC Countries at the First SAARC Summit held in Dhaka (Bangladesh).

9. Ans) (b)

Explanation

‘Country of Particular Concern (CPC)’ designation is the recommendation by the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) when it comes to violation of international religious freedom. It is followed by Special Watch List Countries for severe violations. This is in line with the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 which was passed to promote religious freedom as a foreign policy of the United States. Nations on the CPC list for engaging in or tolerating systematic, ongoing, egregious violations of religious freedom are Pakistan, China, Myanmar, Eritrea, Iran, Nigeria, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. The State Department did not accept the USCIRF recommendation that India, Russia, Syria and Vietnam be also designated as CPCs.

10. Ans) (a)

Explanation

Mount Everest is also known as Sagarmatha in Nepal and Mount Qomolangma in China. The mountain lies on the border between Nepal and Tibet and the summit can be accessed from both sides. It gets its English name from Sir George Everest, a colonial-era geographer who served as the Surveyor General of India in the mid-19th century. It was first scaled in 1953 by the Indian-Nepalese Tenzing Norgay and New Zealander Edmund Hillary.