



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 17-08-2020

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (b)

Explanation :

The National Digital Health Mission (NDHM), which was unveiled by PM Modi in his Independence Day address has now been rolled out on a pilot mode in six Union territories. The six Union Territories where the mission has been rolled out through a pilot launch are Chandigarh, Ladakh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. The mission will be implemented in all parts of the country after studying the initial results of the pilot launch. The National Health Authority (NHA), which is also the apex agency responsible for the implementation of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana has been given the mandate by the government to design, build, roll-out and implement the NDHM in the country. Under NDHM every Indian will get a health ID that will ease access to medical services in the country. NDHM aims to liberate citizens from the challenges of finding the right doctors, seeking appointment with them, payment of consultation fee, making several rounds of hospitals for Preion sheets.

2. Ans) (d)

Explanation :

The Union Territory of Puducherry celebrated its 59th anniversary of the “De-Jure”day.

Puducherry became independent by virtue of a referendum on October 18,1954.

But the treaty of cession signed between the French and Indian governments was ratified by the French Parliament only on August 16, 1962. So on that day the “De-Jure”(The Legal Merger of the UT with the Indian Union) was effected.

The referendum was taken on October 18,1954 on whether to remain in French regime or to merge with the Indian union. As many 178 representatives participated in the referendum in which 170 voted in favour of a merger with India and 8 against it.

The referendum was taken at Keezhoor near Villianur here and to commemorate the occasion a memorial was constructed at Keezhoor.

3. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

PM Modi said that the central government has set up a committee to reconsider the minimum age of marriage for women.

Currently, the law prescribes that the minimum age of marriage is 21 years and 18 years for men and women respectively. Personal laws of various religions that deal with marriage have their own standards, often reflecting custom.

For Hindus, Section 5(iii) of The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, sets 18 years as the minimum age for the bride and 21 years as the minimum age for the groom.

In Islam, the marriage of a minor who has attained puberty is considered valid.

The Special Marriage Act, 1954 and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 also prescribe 18 and 21 years as the minimum age of consent for marriage for women and men respectively.

The minimum age of marriage is distinct from the age of majority which is gender-neutral. An individual attains the age of majority at 18 as per the Indian Majority Act, 1875.

On June 2, the Union Ministry for Women and Child Development set up a task force to examine matters pertaining to age of motherhood, imperatives of lowering Maternal Mortality Ratio and the improvement of nutritional levels among women.

Headed by former Samata Party president Jaya Jaitely, the committee includes Member Health at the NITI Aayog, Dr Vinod Paul, and several Secretaries to the Government of India.

4. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

NTPC Ltd., a central PSU under Ministry of Power and country's largest power generation company, has developed an infrastructure at its Rihand Super Thermal Power station in Uttar Pradesh to transport fly ash in bulk to cement plants at a cheaper cost. The effort marks the beginning of a new era for the transportation of fly ash from a remote location to a consumption centre, enabling power plants for upgrading the utilization of fly ash. The development is in line with NTPC's commitment towards 100 percent utilization of fly ash from power plants. During the financial year 2019-20, almost 44.33 million tonnes of fly ash was utilized for various productive purposes. Rihand Super Thermal Power Project is located in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh. The power plant is one of the coal based power plants of NTPC Limited. The coal for the plant is derived from Amlori and Dudhichua mines. The water source is from Rihand Reservoir which is constructed on Son river.

5. Ans) (b)

Explanation :

Indian Railways is constructing the world's tallest pier bridge in Manipur. The bridge which is being constructed across river Ijai near Noney is an engineering marvel because the tallest pier height will be 141 meter. It will surpass the existing record of 139 meter of Mala - Rijeka viaduct, Montenegro in Europe. The Manipur bridge is located at the hilly terrain of Marangching village in Noney district, about 65 km west of Imphal. It will be completed by March 2022. The bridge is a part of Jiribam-Tupul-Imphal

new BG line project. The total length of the bridge will be 703 meter. The piers of the bridge are constructed using hydraulic augers, the tall piers needed specially designed “slip-form technique” to ensure efficient and continual construction. A pier, in architecture, is an upright support for a structure or superstructure such as an arch or bridge. Sections of structural walls between openings (bays) can function as piers.

6. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

A new, rapid diagnostic test for the novel coronavirus that uses saliva samples was granted an emergency use authorisation by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The inexpensive test, called SalivaDirect, developed by a team from the Yale School of Public Health, has high sensitivity and can detect the virus even when the number of virus copies in the saliva sample is as low as 6-12 copies per microlitre.

Collecting and testing saliva samples involves three steps — collecting saliva without preservative buffers, proteinase K treatment and heat inactivation, and dualplex RT-qPCR virus detection.

The testing protocol has been provided as an “open source”, allowing laboratories in the U.S. to perform the tests. Thus, SalivaDirect will be free to use by diagnostic labs.

The new saliva test would increase efficiency and avoid shortage of crucial test components such as reagents.

The new test makes sample collection non-invasive and reduces the need for trained healthcare workers to collect the samples, reducing the risk of infection during collection.

In contrast, tests using nasopharyngeal swabs lead to false negative results due to errors at the time of sample collection.

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7. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

Jamia Millia University scored a total of 90% in a self-assessment exercise, based on annual targets set by each university under performance parameters determined by the Centre. Jamia achieved the highest score for 2019-20, followed by Rajiv Gandhi University in Arunachal Pradesh, and Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi. However, the HRD Ministry notes that this is an internal assessment, not a ranking, as the targets are self-determined and not comparable across universities. MHRD does the internal assessment of Central Universities regularly based on yearly MoU signed with MHRD, UGC and universities. At the beginning of each year, universities set their targets on various parameters, including student intake and diversity, faculty strength, research, patents and financial management.

8. Ans) (b)

Explanation :

Union Minister for Social Justice inaugurated the new building of National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) Dwarka, New Delhi. NISD is the nodal training and research institute in the field of social defence which focuses on human resource development for drug abuse prevention, welfare of senior citizens and transgenders, beggary prevention, and other social defence issues. NISD has three main divisions, namely National Centre for Drug Abuse Prevention (NCDAP), Old Age Care Division and Social Defence. The National Institute of Social Defence was set up originally as Central Bureau of Correctional Services in 1961, under the Ministry of Home Affairs. Since 1975 the Institute was a subordinate office under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. It has become an Autonomous Body vide Government of India Notification of 2002 and is registered under Societies Act XXI of 1860 with the Government of NCT, Delhi.

9. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

The Ministry of AYUSH launched a three-month campaign on “Ayush for Immunity”, through webinar. The Webinar was staged on Ayush Virtual Convention Centre (AVCC), the new digital communication platform of the Ministry. The theme of campaign is accessible and affordable health for all, through Ayush solutions. The campaign is aimed at increasing awareness about affordable and easy practices that can be adopted for enhancing immunity and preventing any disease. The AVCC would be the Ayush Ministry’s online platform for handling future digital events.

10. Ans) (b)

Explanation :

ISRO paid tribute to Dr Vikram Sarabhai, the Father of India's Space Programme, in a special way by announcing that Chandrayaan 2 Orbiter has captured the Moon images of “Sarabhai” Crater. "Sarabhai" Crater is named after Dr Vikram Sarabhai. To the 300km east of this crater lie the landing sites of American Apollo 17 and Soviet-launched Luna 21 missions. The Crater has a depth of around 1.7 Kms taken from its raised rim and the slope of Crater walls is in between 25 to 35 degree. These findings will help the Space Scientists to understand further the process on the lunar region filled with lava.