



# EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 26-09-2020

### EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, MoHUA and Chairman, National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC), unveiled the first look of India's first RRTS train. The state-of-the-art RRTS rolling stock will be first of its kind in India with a design speed of 180 kmph. With radiating stainless steel outer body, these aerodynamic RRTS trains will be lightweight and fully air-conditioned. The prototype is scheduled to roll off the production line in 2022 and will be put into public use after extensive trials. The 82 km long Delhi–Ghaziabad–Meerut Corridor is the first RRTS corridor being implemented in India. The corridor will bring down the travel time between Delhi to Meerut by around 1/3rd. The other two Phase-I RRTS corridors are Delhi-Gurugram-SNB and Delhi-Panipat. NCRTC is a joint venture of the Government of India (50%) and State Governments of Haryana (12.5%), NCT Delhi (12.5%), Uttar Pradesh (12.5%) and Rajasthan (12.5%). It is mandated to design, construct, finance, operate and maintain RRTS in NCR and works under the administrative control of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, GOI. NCRTC is mandated to implement India's first RRTS in NCR.

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

The Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague ruled that India's retrospective demand of Rs 22,100 crore as capital gains and withholding tax imposed on the Vodafone Group, for a 2007 deal was "in breach of the guarantee of fair and equitable treatment". The court has also asked India not to pursue the tax demand any more against Vodafone Group. Retrospective taxation allows a country to pass a rule on taxing certain products, items or services and deals and charge companies from a time behind the date on which the law is passed. Countries use this route to correct any anomalies in their taxation policies that have, in the past, allowed companies to take advantage of such loopholes. While governments often use a retrospective amendment to taxation laws to "clarify" existing laws, it ends up hurting companies that had knowingly or unknowingly interpreted the tax rules differently. The ruling in favour of Vodafone signals a setback for the country's retrospective taxation policies. It also raises the possibility of other cases under arbitration being decided on similar lines.

3. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

A rat called Magawa was awarded the PDSA Gold Medal for his “life-saving” work in Cambodia. Magawa who is an African Giant Pouched Rat and is just under eight years old, is the first rat to win this medal and was given the award by PDSA’s Director-General. PDSA was founded in 1917 by animal welfare pioneer Maria Dickin and is one of the UK’s leading veterinary charities. The PDSA Gold Medal was initiated in 2002 and rewards civilian acts of animal bravery and “devotion to duty”. It is the highest honour recognising extraordinary bravery of animals. The medal has been awarded to over 30 animals so far. All other recipients are dogs. Till now, Magawa has discovered over 39 landmines and 28 items of unexploded ordnance to date

4. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

The government of Bangladesh is financing a film on the life of revolutionary freedom fighter Pritilata Waddedar. Pritilata Waddedar (1911 – 1932) was a Bengali revolutionary nationalist who was influential in the Indian independence movement. After completing her education in Chittagong and Dhaka, she attended Bethune College in Kolkata. She graduated in philosophy with distinction and became a school teacher. Pritilata joined a revolutionary group headed by Surya Sen. She is known for leading fifteen revolutionaries in the 1932 armed attack on the Pahartali European Club, during which one person was killed and eleven injured. The revolutionaries torched the club and were later caught by the British police. To avoid arrest, Pritilata consumed cyanide and died.

5. Ans) (d)

Explanation :

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has identified the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) and The New India Assurance Co. as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) for 2020-21. Given the nature of operations and their systemic importance, the regulator has asked the three public sector insurers to raise the level of corporate governance, identify all relevant risks and promote a sound risk management culture. As D-SIIs, they will also be subjected to enhanced regulatory supervision, IRDAI said in a statement. D-SIIs refer to insurers of such size, market importance and domestic and global interconnectedness whose distress or failure would cause a significant dislocation in the domestic financial system. Their continued functioning is critical for the uninterrupted availability of insurance services to the national economy. D-SIIs are perceived as insurers that are too big or too important to fail. Such a perception and the expectation of government support may amplify risk taking, reduce market discipline, create competitive distortions and increase the possibility of distress in future. Size in terms of total revenue, including premium underwritten and the value of assets under management are among the parameters on which the insurers are identified. IRDAI said it will list D-SIIs on an annual basis.

6. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill does not give any statutory backing to MSP. There isn't even a mention of either "MSP" or "procurement" in the Bill passed by both Houses of Parliament. The new legislation has "nothing to do with MSP". Instead, its objective is simply to grant farmers and traders the freedom of choice to sell and buy agricultural produce outside the premises of APMC mandis.

7. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) provides a legal basis for the public distribution system (PDS). The NFSA made access to the PDS a right, entitling every person belonging to a "priority household" to receive 5 kg of foodgrains per month at a subsidised price not exceeding Rs 2/kg for wheat and Rs 3/kg for rice. Priority households were further defined so as to cover up to 75% of the country's rural population and 50% in urban areas. MSP, by contrast, is devoid of any legal backing. Access to it, unlike subsidised grains through the PDS, isn't an entitlement for farmers. They cannot demand it as a matter of right. CACP is not a statutory body set up through an Act of Parliament. "CACP is an attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India". It recommends MSPs. Sugarcane pricing being governed by the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 issued under the Essential Commodities Act. That order, in turn, provides for the fixation of a 'fair and remunerative price' (FRP) for cane during every sugar year (October-September). But even the FRP — which, incidentally, was until 2008-09 called the 'statutory minimum price' or SMP — is payable not by the government. The responsibility to make FRP payment to farmers within 14 days of cane purchase lies solely with the sugar mills.

8. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Recently Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Virat Kohli discussed about yo-yo test during their interaction. yo-yo test, is a vital part of the Indian cricket team's fitness routine. Players who fail in the test are not available for selection

9. Ans) (b)

Explanation

Artificial Intelligence (AI) describes the action of machines accomplishing tasks that have historically

required human intelligence. It includes technologies like machine learning, pattern recognition, big data, neural networks, self algorithms etc. NITI ayog has launched National Strategy on Artificial Intelligence to leveraging Artificial intelligence(AI) across various sectors such as education, agriculture, healthcare, e-commerce, finance, telecommunications, etc. India has joined the 'Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)' as a founding member to support the responsible and human-centric development and use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). GPAI is an international and multi-stakeholder initiative to guide the responsible development and use of AI, based on human rights, inclusion, diversity, innovation, and economic growth.

10. Ans) (c)

Explanation

The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020 was passed by the Parliament. The Bill amends the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010. The Bill bars public servants from receiving foreign contributions. Public servant includes any person who is in service or pay of the government, or remunerated by the government for the performance of any public duty. The FCRA 2010 also bars certain persons to accept any foreign contribution. These include: election candidates, editor or publisher of a newspaper, judges, government servants, members of any legislature, and political parties, among others. The Bill makes Aadhaar number mandatory for all office bearers, directors or key functionaries of a person receiving foreign contribution, as an identification document. In case of a foreigner, a copy of the passport or the Overseas Citizen of India card for identification is required.