



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 28-07-2020

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (b)

Explanation :

The first container train from India – carrying FMCG products and other items – arrived at the Benapole railways station of Bangladesh on July 26, 2020. It had started from Majerhat station near Kolkata on July 24, 2020. The Container Train Service is going to be a regular service connecting various terminals of Indian Railways network to various stations in Bangladesh. The process for facilitating movement of Container trains from India to Bangladesh started in 2017 when an MoU was signed by Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) and the Bangladesh Container Company Ltd. It was followed up by a trial run of the first container train from Kolkata to Bangabandhusetu West station (BBW) in April 2018. Container Train Service is an additional service which is going to transport cargo by rail to Bangladesh other than the traditional Freight Trains Services and the newly introduced Parcel Train Service (On 13 July, 2020 a parcel train carrying chilli from Andhra Pradesh had arrived in Bangladesh). Container train services are cost effective and safer to carry FMCG, chemicals and consumer durables requiring shorter transit time. In contrast, traditional freight trains carry bulk items like fertiliser, coal, iron ore and cement among others.

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

World Hepatitis Day is being celebrated on 28 July. This year's theme is "Hepatitis-free future," with a strong focus on preventing hepatitis B among mothers and new-borns. World Hepatitis Day is commemorated each year on 28 July to enhance awareness of viral hepatitis, an inflammation of the liver that causes a range of health problems, including liver cancer. The date of 28 July was chosen because it is the birthday of Nobel-prize winning scientist Dr Baruch Blumberg, who discovered hepatitis B virus (HBV) and developed a diagnostic test and vaccine for the virus. There are five main strains of the hepatitis virus – A, B, C, D and E. Together, hepatitis B and C are the most common cause of deaths, with 1.3 million lives lost each year. WHO is calling on all countries to work together to eliminate viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030.

3. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

The Union Government has issued a certificate of Geographical Indication (GI) registration for Saffron grown in the Kashmir Valley. The GI certification establishes specific geographical origin and certifies certain unique qualities of the product and enables those who have the right to use sign in order to prevent third parties using the sign. With the GI tag, Kashmir Saffron will acquire more prominence in the export market and would help the farmers get a better remunerative price. It would also stop the prevalent adulteration of Kashmir Saffron and thereby authenticated Saffron will fetch much better prices. Kashmir saffron, grown at an altitude of 1,600 metres, saw a steep decline in production by around 65%, from 16 tonnes to 5.6 tonnes in 2018. Land under saffron cultivation has also come down to 3,715 hectares in 2009-10 from 5,707 hectares in 1996.

4. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

A study by the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), revealed that the Tuting-Tidding Suture Zone (TTSZ) is generating moderate earthquakes at two different depths. The Tuting-Tidding Suture Zone (TTSZ) is a major part of the Eastern Himalaya, where the Himalaya takes a sharp southward bend and connects with the Indo-Burma Range. This part of the Arunachal Himalaya has gained significant importance in recent times due to the growing need of constructing roads and hydropower projects, making the need for understanding the pattern of seismicity in this region critical.

5. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

The Constitution Bench judgment of the Supreme Court in Nabam Rebia versus Deputy Speaker on July 13, 2016, held that a Governor is bound to convene a meeting of the Assembly for a floor test on the recommendation of the Cabinet.

Key highlights of the Judgement:

A Governor cannot employ his “discretion”, and should strictly abide by the “aid and advice” of the Cabinet to summon the Assembly for a floor test.

The Governor can summon, prorogue and dissolve the House only on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers with the Chief Minister as the head. And not at his own.

Even the Constituent Assembly was wary of extending the Governor’s discretion. Though the draft Constitution had vested the Governor with the discretion to summon and dissolve, it was latter omitted by the framers of the Constitution.

Article 163 of the Constitution does not give the Governor a “general discretionary power to act against or without the advice of his Council of Ministers”.

6. Ans) (b)

Explanation :

About 200 investment proposals from China are awaiting security clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) after the new FDI rules were notified in April 2020. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) notified the new FDI policy in April 2020, making prior government approval mandatory for foreign direct investments (FDI) from countries which share a land border with India. India shares land borders with Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar. Investors from countries that are not covered by revised FDI new policy only have to inform the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) after the completion of a transaction rather than seek prior clearance from the administrative ministry. The revised FDI policy is aimed at “curbing opportunistic takeovers/acquisitions of Indian companies due to the current COVID-19 pandemic”.

7. Ans) (d)

Explanation :

Union Minister of Rural Development released the “Financial Management Index for Rural Development Programmes”. The index will rank the performance of the States on the basis of following parameters:

Preparation of annual plan, projecting the requirement of funds for the financial year, expeditious release of State’s share, timely utilization of the funds and submission of the Utilization Certificates etc.;

Optimum implementation of Public Financial Management System (PFMS) & Direct Benefit Transfer;

Internal Audit; and

Social Audit.

The performance of the States on the parameters of the Index would also promote the spirit of competitive, cooperative federalism amongst States.

8. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

The Ministry of Health declared the results of a serological survey carried out in Delhi between June 27 and July 10, which showed that 22.86% of the people surveyed had developed IgG antibodies, indicating they had been exposed to the novel coronavirus that causes Covid-19. A serological survey seeks to assess the prevalence of disease in a population by detecting the presence of specific antibodies against the virus. A serological test is performed to diagnose infections and autoimmune illnesses. It can also be conducted to check if a person has developed immunity to certain diseases. The

test indicates past infections (and which triggered an immune response), and is not used to detect active infections.

9. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

International Union of Railways (UIC), Paris has nominated Arun Kumar as Vice-Chairman of its security platform. The International Union of Railways – translated as Union Internationale des Chemins (UIC) – is an international rail transport industry body. It was formed in 1922 and is headquartered in Paris. Arun Kumar, presently serving as Director General of Railway Protection Force (RPF) will take over as vice-chairman of UIC Security Platform from July 2022 to July 2024. The decision was taken in the 96th General Assembly of the Union. The Security Platform of the Union is empowered to formulate policy positions for matters relating to security, property and installation in the rail sector.

10. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has signed an agreement for extending a \$400-million currency swap facility to Sri Lanka to boost the foreign reserves and ensure financial stability of the country, which is badly hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. The currency swap arrangement will remain available till November 2022. The agreement between Sri Lanka and RBI has been signed under the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) framework. The RBI also offers similar swap lines to central banks in the SAARC region within a total corpus of \$2 billion. This facility originally came into operation in 2012. India already has a \$75 billion bilateral currency swap line with Japan, which has the second highest dollar reserves after China.