



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 05-03-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

The government has amended insurance ombudsman rules.

As per the new rules:

Insurance brokers are now covered under ombudsman rules. Policyholders are now allowed to file online complaints. The scope of complaints has been enlarged to ombudsmen from only disputes earlier to deficiencies in service on the part of insurers, agents, brokers and other intermediaries. The ombudsman may use video-conferencing for hearings.

About Insurance Ombudsman:

The Insurance Ombudsman scheme was created by the Government of India for individual policyholders to have their complaints settled out of the courts system in a cost-effective, efficient and impartial way.

Who can approach?

Any person who has a grievance against an insurer, may himself or through his legal heirs, nominee or assignee, make a complaint in writing to the Insurance ombudsman.

One can approach the Ombudsman with complaint only if:

One has first approached insurance company with the complaint and; They have rejected it Not resolved it to satisfaction or Not responded to it at all for 30 days

2. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The Registrar-General of India (RGI) is preparing to conduct field trials of the first phase of the Census and the National Population Register (NPR) using a mobile application in all the States and Union Territories. The app will contain questionnaires on house listing and housing census and the NPR.

What is National Population Register (NPR)?

It is a Register of usual residents of the country. It is being prepared at the local (Village/sub-Town), sub-District, District, State and National level under provisions of the Citizenship Act 1955 and the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003. It is mandatory for every usual resident of India to register in the NPR. Objective: To create a comprehensive identity database of every usual resident in the country. The NPR was first collected in 2010 and then updated in 2015. Who is a usual resident?

A usual resident is defined for the purposes of NPR as a person who has resided in a local area for the

past 6 months or more or a person who intends to reside in that area for the next 6 months or more.

3. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

The report “Freedom in the World 2021: Democracy under Siege” was recently released by US think-tank Freedom House. Key findings:

Freedoms in India have reduced resulting in India being classified as ‘partly free’. India’s score was 67, a drop from 71/100 from last year downgrading it from the free category last year. Reasons for the downgrade: The government and its State-level allies continued to crack down on critics during the year. The private media are vigorous and diverse, and investigations and scrutiny of politicians do occur. However, attacks on press freedom have escalated dramatically under the Modi government, and reporting has become significantly less ambitious in recent years. Security, defamation, sedition and contempt of court laws have been used to quiet critical media voices. Revelations of close relationships between politicians, business executives and lobbyists on one hand and leading media personalities and owners of media outlets, on the other, have dented public confidence in the press.

4. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

The 193-member United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) unanimously adopted the resolution, sponsored by India, declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets.

5. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Bengaluru and Shimla have topped the Ease of Living Index 2020, released by Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri . Bengaluru emerged as the top performer in Million+ category. Shimla was ranked the highest in ease of living in Less than Million category.

6. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Indian Sugar Mills’ Association (ISMA) has asked the government to raise the minimum selling price for sugar to Rs34.50 a kg.

Sugar Pricing Policy:

Price of sugar are market driven & depends on demand & supply of sugar. However, with a view to protect the interests of farmers, concept of Minimum Selling Price (MSP) of sugar was introduced in 2018 so that industry may get atleast the minimum cost of production of sugar, so as to enable them to clear cane price dues of farmers. In exercise of the powers conferred under the Essential Commodities

Act, 1955, Government has notified Sugar Price (Control) Order, 2018. Under the provisions of said order, Government will fix the Minimum Selling Price (MSP).MSP of sugar has been fixed taking into account the components of Fair & Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane and minimum conversion cost of the most efficient mills.

Background:

The Federal/Central Government announces Fair and Remunerative Prices which are determined on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACPC) and are announced by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, which is chaired by Prime Minister.

7. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The U.S. Department of Commerce is preparing to tax aluminium sheet exporters from 18 countries including India after determining that they had benefited from subsidies and dumping. The US International Trade Commission (ITC), an independent body, must approve the final decision by April 15 to impose anti-dumping or countervailing duties. What is Dumping? In international trade practise, dumping happens when a country or a firm exports an item at a price lower than the price of that product in its domestic market. Dumping impacts the price of that product in the importing country, hitting margins and profits of local manufacturing firms.

What is anti-dumping duty?

Anti-dumping duty is imposed to rectify the situation arising out of the dumping of goods and its trade distortive effect. According to global trade norms, including the World Trade Organization (WTO) regime, a country is allowed to impose tariffs on such dumped products to provide a level-playing field to domestic manufacturers. How is it different from CVD? Anti-dumping duty is different from countervailing duty. The latter is imposed in order to counter the negative impact of import subsidies to protect domestic producers. Countervailing Duties (CVDs) are tariffs levied on imported goods to offset subsidies made to producers of these goods in the exporting country. CVDs are meant to level the playing field between domestic producers of a product and foreign producers of the same product who can afford to sell it at a lower price because of the subsidy they receive from their government.

8. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Organised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry. Udyog Manthan is a series of focused webinars on promoting quality and productivity in Indian industry. It will cover various sectors including pharma, medical devices, closed circuit camera, electronics system design and manufacturing, new and renewable energy, robotics, aerospace and defence, toys, furniture, etc

9. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The Simlipal forest reserve area frequently witnesses forest fires during dry weather conditions. A fire which started in the biosphere reserve area in February 2021 was raging for nearly a week that was finally brought under control. About Simlipal Reserve Location: Similipal, which derives its name from 'Simul' (silk cotton) tree and is situated in the northern part of Odisha's Mayurbhanj district. Protection: It is a national park and a tiger reserve. Also, Similipal and the adjoining areas, comprising 5,569 sq km, was declared a biosphere reserve by the Government of India on June 22, 1994, and lies in the eastern end of the eastern ghats Rich in Biodiversity: Similipal is the abode of 94 species of orchids and about 3,000 species of plants, 12 species of amphibians, 29 species of reptiles, 264 species of birds and 42 species of mammals. Sal is the dominant tree species. Human Settlements: The transition zone of the reserve has 1,200 villages with a total population of about 4.5 lakh. Tribals constitute about 73 per cent of the population.

10. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

India's first Engineering Research & Development (ER&D) Policy was launched recently by Karnataka. Objective: To raise Karnataka's contribution to the sector to 45% in the next five years. The policy has the potential to create over 50,000 jobs in the ER&D space in five years. ER&D has the potential to become a \$100-billion industry in India in the next five years. The sector is the fastest growing industry in India with a CAGR of 12.8%. The global engineering research and development industry is also expected to reach \$2 trillion by 2025. Five key focus sectors: Aerospace and defence; auto, auto components and EV; biotechnology, pharma and medical devices; semiconductors, telecom, ESDM; and software products.