



# EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 18-09-2020

### EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Nationwide, there were less than 34,000 workers registered in 2019-20 under the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (ISMW) Act, 1979, according to a response to a recent Right to Information (RTI) Act request. In response to an RTI request filed by activist Anjali Bhardwaj, the Central Labour Commissioner (CLC) provided data showing that only 33,776 migrant workers were registered under the Act in 2019-20, according to monthly reports from regional offices. The highest number of registrations came from the Kochi regional office in Kerala, with over 7,800 workers, followed by Dhanbad in Jharkhand (almost 7,496) and Chennai in Tamil Nadu (6,623). On the other hand, Delhi, Dehradun and Patna regions registered zero migrant workers last year, and for the last five years.

2. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The 'Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package insurance scheme for health workers fighting COVID-19' has now been extended for another 180 days, the Union Health Ministry said. The scheme was announced on March 30 for 90 days and was extended for 90 days (up to September 25). This Central sector scheme provides an insurance cover of 50 lakh to healthcare providers who may have to be in direct contact and care of COVID-19 patients, and therefore is at risk of being infected. It covers private hospital staff/retired/volunteer/local urban bodies/contract/daily wage/ad-hoc/outsourced staff requisitioned by States/Central hospitals/autonomous hospitals of Central/States/UTs, AIIMS & INIs/hospitals of Central Ministries drafted for COVID-19 related responsibilities.

3. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) launched 'i-ATS', an indigenously-built communication-based train control signalling technology for the metro. The i-ATS (Automatic Train Supervision) is a computer-based system that manages train operation. This system is indispensable for high-density operations such as the metro, where services are scheduled every few minutes. i-ATS is indigenously-developed technology, which will significantly reduce the dependence of Indian metros on foreign vendors dealing with such technologies. It can work with train control and signalling systems of various suppliers. Additionally, it is suitable for introduction in Indian Railways, which is now introducing

centralised train control on a large scale that uses ATS functions.

4. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

Becoming the first to institutionalise snake handling in the country, the Kerala Forest Department has framed guidelines for rescuing snakes from human dominated places and releasing them in uninhabited areas. The move to certify snake handlers comes amid allegations of unscientific approaches by snake catchers that tend to create stress to the animal and pose risk to their and others' lives. Kerala has reported 334 deaths and 1,860 other cases of snake-bites in the past three years. The guidelines make it mandatory for snake handlers, aged between 21 and 65 years, to seek certification. The applications will be screened by the Assistant Conservators of Forest (ACF, Social Forestry) to prepare lists of snake handlers in each district. Those short-listed will be required to undergo a mandatory training on safe and scientific handling of snakes. While the certification will be valid for five years, the respective ACFs can withdraw or cancel the same if the snake handler is found to be involved in any illegal or unethical practices. Rescued snakes will also have to be released in the presence of forest officials at the earliest. If found injured, the snake can be released only after ascertaining its fitness. Non-native species, however, cannot be released and have to be handed over to the Forest Department.

5. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has greeted the people on the occasion of Mahalaya. Mahalaya marks the beginning of the Devipaksha and the end of the Pitru Paksha according to Hindu calendar. Pitru Paksha is a 16-lunar day period when Hindus pay homage to their ancestors through shradh prayers and food offerings. In Bengal, Mahalaya marks the beginning of Durga Puja festivities. Mahalaya is the day when the goddess Durga is believed to have descended to Earth. Bengali people traditionally wake up early in the morning on Mahalaya to recite hymns from the Devi Mahatmya (Chandi) scripture. Offerings to the ancestors are made in homes and at puja mandaps

6. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

International Equal Pay Day is being celebrated for the first time ever on 18 September, 2020. On November 15, 2019, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming September 18 as International Equal Pay Day. The resolution was introduced by the Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC), with the support of Canada, Australia, Germany, Panama, New Zealand, South Africa and Switzerland. EPIC is led by the International Labour Organization, UN Women and partners. Its goal is to achieve equal pay for women. International Equal Pay Day represents the longstanding efforts towards

the achievement of equal pay for work of equal value. According to United Nations (UN), Across all regions, women are paid less than men, with the gender pay gap estimated at 23 per cent globally.

7. Ans) (c)

Explanation

The Djibouti Code of Conduct is also known as the Code of Conduct concerning the Repression of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden. It was adopted on 29th January 2009. It was established under the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

8. Ans) (a)

Explanation

Difference between the Western and Eastern Ghats:

The Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats are the two different biogeographic zones, with unique histories. While the Western Ghats are considered as a biodiversity hotspot, that is not the case with the Eastern Ghats. Geologically, the Western Ghats are ancient, having Gondwanaland relict forests in the south, while the formation of the Eastern Ghats is recent. Both landscapes have unique ecosystems, with special microclimates and microhabitats that support a great number of diversities including amphibians.

9. Ans) (a)

Explanation

Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), under Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, is the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) of India.

Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, CDSCO is responsible for approval of Drugs, Conduct of Clinical Trials, laying down the standards for Drugs, control over the quality of imported Drugs in the country and coordination of the activities of State Drug Control Organizations by providing expert advice. The approval for a vaccine is given by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO). A vaccine, developed outside India, needs to be tested with late-phase human trials, usually both phase-2 and phase-3, on an Indian population as a part of general requirement. CDSCO can also give emergency authorisation without late-phase trials, considering the extraordinary situation.

10. Ans) (c)

Explanation

Serial Interval of SARS-CoV-2 is the duration between symptom onset of a primary case and symptom onset of secondary cases (contacts) generated by the primary case. In simple terms, the serial interval is

the gap between the onset of Covid-19 symptoms in Person A and Person B, who is infected by Person A. The serial interval depends on other epidemiological parameters such as the incubation period and the reproduction rate or  $R$  nought. The incubation period is the time between a person's exposure to the virus and symptom onset. The reproduction rate is the number of people who will be infected by one infected person.