



# EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 28-04-2021

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### EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

India's Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has been chosen as the external auditor by the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for a three-year term starting 2021. The appointment was made through an election process at the OPCW conference recently. India was also selected as the member of the executive council of the OPCW representing Asia group for another two-year term during the OPCW conference.

About OPCW:

It is an international organization established by the Chemical Weapons Convention, 1997 to implement and enforce the terms of the non-proliferation treaty, which prohibits the use, stockpiling, or transfer of chemical weapons by signatory states. The OPCW is authorized to perform inspections to verify that signatory states are complying with the convention. By the 2001 Relationship Agreement between the OPCW and the United Nations, the OPCW reports on its inspections and other activities to the UN through the office of the Secretary General. The organisation was awarded the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize "for its extensive efforts to eliminate chemical weapons".

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The scheme has been extended to all states. Earlier, it was launched only for 9 states. Overview and key features of the 'Swamitva Yojana': Launched on Panchayati Raj Diwas (April 24th, 2020). The scheme seeks to map residential land ownership in the rural sector using modern technology like the use of drones. The scheme aims to revolutionise property record maintenance in India. The scheme is piloted by the Panchayati Raj ministry. Under the scheme, residential land in villages will be measured using drones to create a non-disputable record. Property card for every property in the village will be prepared by states using accurate measurements delivered by drone-mapping. These cards will be given to property owners and will be recognised by the land revenue records department. Benefits of the scheme:

The delivery of property rights through an official document will enable villagers to access bank finance using their property as collateral. The property records for a village will also be maintained at the Panchayat level, allowing for the collection of associated taxes from the owners. The money generated from these local taxes will be used to build rural infrastructure and facilities. Freeing the residential properties including land of title disputes and the creation of an official record is likely to result in

appreciation in the market value of the properties. The accurate property records can be used for facilitating tax collection, new building and structure plan, issuing of permits and for thwarting attempts at property grabbing.

3. Ans) (b)

Explanation :

Functioning under the control of the Ministry of Defence since 2015, the BRO is engaged in road construction to provide connectivity to difficult and inaccessible regions in the border areas of the country. It is staffed by officers and troops drawn from the Indian Army's Corps of Engineers, Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Army Service Corps, Military Police and army personnel on extra regimental employment.

4. Ans:A

Explanation:

The PM CARES Fund has approved allocation of funds for setting up 551 Pressure Swing Adsorption medical oxygen generation plants at public health facilities across the country. The Fund had earlier this year allocated ₹201.58 crores for the installation of 162 such plants. What is Pressure swing adsorption (PSA)?

It is a technology used to separate some gas species from a mixture of gases under pressure according to the species' molecular characteristics and affinity for an adsorbent material. It operates at near-ambient temperatures and differs significantly from cryogenic distillation techniques of gas separation. Specific adsorbent materials (e.g., zeolites, activated carbon, molecular sieves, etc.) are used as a trap, preferentially adsorbing the target gas species at high pressure. The process then swings to low pressure to desorb the adsorbed material.

About PM-CARES:

The Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM-CARES) Fund was set up to accept donations and provide relief during the Covid-19 pandemic, and other similar emergencies.

PM-CARES Fund:

PM-CARES was set up as a public charitable trust with the trust deed registered on March 27, 2020. It can avail donations from the foreign contribution and donations to fund can also avail 100% tax exemption. PM-CARES is different from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF). Who administers the fund?

Prime Minister is the ex-officio Chairman of the PM CARES Fund and Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Finance, Government of India are ex-officio Trustees of the Fund.

5. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

The Union Home Ministry has said it does not maintain a centralised list of volunteers enrolled under the cybercrime volunteer programme since the police is a “State subject” under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.

In response to a Right to Information Act (RTI) application on the total number of volunteers who have applied under the Cybercrime Volunteers Programme of the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal, the Ministry said the information could be sought directly from the respective States and Union Territories.

6. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Russia is planning to fly special planes with a wide range of COVID-related assistance including oxygen generators and concentrators as well as drugs needed for the treatment of the coronavirus that is ravaging many parts of India. However, Russia may have to hold off sending the drug Remdesivir owing to U.S. patent violations.

What’s the issue?

Exports of Remdesivir have run into trouble with U.S. licensing laws invoked by Remdesivir developer, California-based Gilead Sciences Inc. Remdesivir, that was cleared for COVID-19 treatment by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in October 2020, is being made in Russia after the government in Moscow decided to defy the international patent held by Gilead, and issued an ordinance allowing Russian company Pharmasynthez to manufacture the drug under a “compulsory licence”.

What is compulsory Licensing? Compulsory License is a licence issued/authorised by the government that allows the company or an individual seeking other’s intellectual property to use it (making, using and selling a patented product or employing a patented process) without having to seek the consent of the owner/the right holder, by paying a predetermined fee for the license. Indian Patents Act 1970 and the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights deal with compulsory licensing.

The application for a compulsory license can be made any time after 3 years from the date of sealing of a patent.

7. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Saudi Arabia will join the United States, Canada, Norway, and Qatar in forming ‘Net Zero Producers Forum’ for oil and gas producers to discuss how they can support the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

8. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

The Indian Space Research Organisation will launch a data relay satellite that will help maintain contact with the Gaganyaan mission throughout after the launch.

9. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Earth Day was celebrated on April 22. It is an international event celebrated around the world to pledge support for environmental protection. Theme: 'Restore Our Earth'. The theme focuses on natural processes, emerging green technologies, and innovative thinking that can restore the world's ecosystems. This year, seven major climate-related events are taking place in parallel on April 22, including the Leaders' Summit on Climate hosted by the USA and the Exponential Climate action Summit on Financing the Race to Zero emissions. Earth Day was first observed in 1970, when 20 million took to the streets to protest against environmental degradation. The event was triggered by the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill, and other issues such as smog and polluted rivers. In 2009, the United Nations designated April 22 as 'International Mother Earth Day'.

10. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Chad's President Idriss Deby Itno died recently. Chad is a landlocked country in north-central Africa. It is bordered by Libya to the north, Sudan to the east, the Central African Republic to the south, Cameroon to the south-west, Nigeria to the southwest (at Lake Chad), and Niger to the west. Lake Chad, after which the country is named, is the second-largest wetland in Africa. The capital N'Djamena is the largest city.