



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 04-05-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Myanmar's military has launched air strikes on a village and outpost near the Thai border, after ethnic minority Karen insurgents attacked a Myanmar army post in some of the worst clashes since a Feb. 1 coup. The Karen National Union (KNU), Myanmar's oldest rebel group, has also said its fighters had taken the army camp on the west bank of the Salween river.

Who are the KNU?

The KNU is the dominant political organisation representing ethnic minority Karen communities in Karen, or Kayin, State, bordering Thailand. Its aim is self-determination for the Karen people in a region of about 1.6 million people, roughly the size of Belgium, where they are the ethnic majority in the state.

What is the Karen Conflict?

Marginalised in then Burma's post-independence political process, the KNU started a rebellion in 1949, which it waged for nearly 70 years. One of its key grievances was the majority Bamar community's dominance of Myanmar's state and military. The conflict has been described as one of the world's "longest running civil wars".

What's the demand? Karen nationalists have been fighting for an independent state known as Kawthoolei since 1949.

2. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

It is the first module of China's planned space station. The core module, currently the largest spacecraft developed by China, was launched into low earth orbit by a Long March-5B rocket, marking the first step of China's efforts to build its own station in two years. The Tianhe module will act as the management and control hub of the space station.

3. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

It is a high-yielding and pest-resistant variety of soybean developed by Indian Scientists. It is suitable for cultivation in the states of Assam, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and North-Eastern states. The new variety has been developed by scientists from MACS – Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune.

The variety was developed using the conventional cross breeding technique. Its thick stem, higher pod

insertion (7 cm) from ground, and resistance to pod shattering make it suitable even for mechanical harvesting. It is suitable for rain-fed conditions of north-east India.

4. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is going to visit London, UK from May 03 to May 06, 2021, to participate in the G7 Foreign and Development Minister's Meeting during the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

India and Russia have decided to establish a new 2+2 dialogue at the foreign and defence minister level. Till date, India has this mechanism with only QUAD member countries, which are United States, Japan, and Australia. Russia is the first non-Quad member country with which India will now have this mechanism.

6. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), has launched SHWAS (SIDBI assistance to Healthcare sector in War Against Second wave of COVID19) and AROG (SIDBI Assistance to MSMEs for Recovery & Organic Growth during COVID-19 pandemic), two new quick credit delivery schemes.

7. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Indian Navy has launched Operation Samudra Setu-II to augment the ongoing national mission for meeting the Oxygen requirements. Mission deployed Indian Naval warships will undertake shipment of liquid Oxygen filled cryogenic containers and associated medical equipment in support of India's fight against COVID-19. Two ships INS Kolkata and INS Talwar have entered port of Manama, Bahrain for embarking and transporting 40MT of liquid oxygen to Mumbai. INS Jalashwa is enroute to Bangkok and INS Airavat to Singapore for similar missions. Last year Indian Navy had launched Operation Samudra Setu as part of the Vande Bharat Mission and repatriated approx 4,000 stranded and distressed Indian citizens from Maldives, Sri Lanka and Iran.

8. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

According to a study, due to the significant melting of glaciers because of global temperature rise, our

planet's axis of rotation has been moving more than usual since the 1990s.

Implications:

While this change is not expected to affect daily life, it can change the length of the day by a few milliseconds.

What is the Earth's axis?

The Earth's axis of rotation is the line along which it spins around itself as it revolves around the Sun.

The points on which the axis intersects the planet's surface are the geographical north and south poles.

How it shifts?

The location of the poles is not fixed, however, as the axis moves due to changes in how the Earth's mass is distributed around the planet. Thus, the poles move when the axis moves, and the movement is called "polar motion". According to NASA, data from the 20th century shows that the spin axis drifted about 10 centimetres per year. Meaning over a century, polar motion exceeds 10 metres. Generally, polar motion is caused by changes in the hydrosphere, atmosphere, oceans, or solid Earth.

What the new study says?

Since the 1990s, climate change has caused billions of tonnes of glacial ice to melt into oceans. This has caused the Earth's poles to move in new directions. As per the study, the north pole has shifted in a new eastward direction since the 1990s, because of changes in the hydrosphere (meaning the way in which water is stored on Earth). From 1995 to 2020, the average speed of drift was 17 times faster than from 1981 to 1995. Also, in the last four decades, the poles moved by about 4 metres in distance.

Latest factors behind this change:

The faster ice melting, change in non-glacial regions due to climate change and unsustainable consumption of groundwater for irrigation and other anthropogenic activities. As millions of tonnes of water from below the land is pumped out every year for drinking, industries or agriculture, most of it eventually joins the sea, thus redistributing the planet's mass.

9. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

The Chief Election Commissioner of India has appealed to the Supreme Court through a Special Leave Petition against the oral comments attributed to the judges of the Madras High Court on the poll body and its officials, portraying them as responsible for the surge in the COVID-19 pandemic. CEC urged the court to direct the police not to register cases for murder against Election Commission officials or take any coercive action on the basis of media reports on oral observations attributed to the High Court judges.

What's the issue?

Madras High Court had recently made some oral comments against the Election commission and its officials, portraying them as responsible for the surge in the COVID-19 pandemic. It has also been reported that the judge called for concerned officers to be put up for murder charges. Now, the Election

Commission wants to obtain an order from the Madras High Court to gag the media from reporting oral observations made by judges during the hearing of elections-related cases.

Need for:

Oral comments would impact or lower the faith of the masses in the poll body and the democratic process. It is also not justified in the least for an independent constitutional authority to make allegations against another which would effectively tarnish the image of the latter.

Article 136 in the Constitution Of India:

Special leave to appeal by the Supreme Court:

Notwithstanding anything in this Chapter, the Supreme Court may, in its discretion, grant special leave to appeal from any judgment, decree, determination, sentence or order in any cause or matter passed or made by any court or tribunal in the territory of India. Nothing in clause (1) shall apply to any judgment, determination, sentence or order passed or made by any court or tribunal constituted by or under any law relating to the Armed Forces.

10. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

It is a new snake species discovered recently in Tamil Nadu. It is a tiny snake of just 20 cm length with iridescent scales. The species is named in honour of Indian herpetologist Deepak Veerappan for his contribution in erecting a new subfamily Xylophiinae to accommodate wood snakes. Wood snakes are harmless, sub-fossorial and often found while digging soil in farms and under the logs in the Western Ghat forests