



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 07-05-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

A lineament is a linear feature in a landscape dictated by an underlying geological structure such as a fault.

Context:

According to a recent study, an unfamiliar lineament is one factor behind frequent earthquakes in northern Assam's Sonitpur area.

Why there are frequent earthquakes in Assam?

According to the Geological Survey of India (GSI), Sonitpur district lies within a tectonically complex triangular area bounded by the east-west trending Atherkhet Fault, the northwest-southeast trending Kopili Fault and a north-south trending lineament.

Why North east is vulnerable?

The Siang Fracture, Yemla Fault, Namula Thrust and Canyon Thrust are spread across the northeast and are active along with Main Himalayan Thrust, Main Boundary Thrust, Main Central Thrust and several subsidiary faults. The northeast is demarcated as Seismic Zone V, which indicates a zone with high vulnerability. The Indian plate is moving northeast toward the Eurasian plate in the Himalayan region, their oblique collision and release of stress and strain accumulated in the local tectonic or fault environments lead to earthquakes.

2. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

A five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court has struck down the Maharashtra law granting reservation to the Maratha community in admissions and government jobs in the state.

What was the law?

In November 2018, the Maratha community was given the reservation under the Maharashtra State Socially and Educational Backward Act. The special act was sanctioned by Maharashtra State Backward Class Commission and approved in both the assembly and council. The Maratha reservation of 12 and 13 per cent (in education and jobs) had increased the overall reservation ceiling to 64 per cent and 65 per cent, respectively.

Judicial Intervention:

Initially, the reservation under SEBC was challenged by a PIL in Bombay High Court. The Bombay High

Court while upholding the reservation pointed that instead of 16 per cent it should be reduced to 12 per cent in education and 13 per cent in jobs.

Accordingly, the Act was implemented with Maratha students availing the quota in educational institutions and jobs. In September 9, 2020 the Maratha reservation confronted another hurdle as Supreme Court stayed its implementation and refer the case to Chief Justice of India for larger bench. 1992 Indira Sawhney Judgment:

In 1992 landmark ruling in Indra Sawhney v Union of India, in which the Mandal Commission report was upheld, the Court laid down two important precedents. First, it said that the criteria for a group to qualify for reservation is “social and educational backwardness”. Second, it reiterated the 50% limit to vertical quotas reasoning that it was needed to ensure “efficiency” in administration. However, the court said that this 50% limit will apply unless in “exceptional circumstances.”

3. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

FM Nirmala Sitharaman announced the Glue Grant scheme while presenting the Budget 2021-2022. She proposed to set up a Higher Education Commission of India as an umbrella body having 4 separate vehicles for standard-setting, accreditation, regulation, and funding.

4. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

A team of researchers from the marine research organization ProMare in collaboration with IBM built the world’s first AI ship, the ‘Mayflower 400’. Mayflower 400, the unmanned 15-m-long trimaran that weighs nine tons is a completely autonomous ship. The ship is set to sail on a transatlantic voyage. Mayflower 400 will track aquatic mammals, analyze plastic in the water, and study marine pollution. The ship is powered by Artificial Intelligence and the Sun’s energy via solar panels. Various nations such as India, the United States, and Switzerland have contributed a variety of technology towards the project. One of the partners at IBM informed that the project would have been 10 times costlier than the \$1 million invested by ProMare without the global efforts from these nations.

5. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Treating the current coronavirus wave like a war, the armed forces have launched operation “CO-JEET” to aid anti-COVID-19 efforts, like strengthening medical infrastructure and oxygen supply chains, as well as take measures to ensure mental wellbeing of people.

6. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Questions are being raised by many scientists on whether a government-backed model, called SUTRA, to forecast the rise and ebb of the COVID-19 pandemic, may have had an outsized role in creating the perception that a catastrophic second wave was unlikely in India.

What is SUTRA model?

SUTRA (Susceptible, Undetected, Tested (positive), and Removed Approach) first came into public attention when one of its expert members announced in October that India was “past its peak”.

The model uses three main parameters to predict the course of the pandemic which are:

Beta: Also called contact rate, which measures how many people an infected person infects per day. It is related to the R0 value, which is the number of people an infected person spreads the virus to over the course of their infection. Reach: It is a measure of the exposure level of the population to the pandemic.

Epsilon: It is the ratio of detected and undetected cases.

7. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Arouca Bridge 516, the world’s longest pedestrian suspension bridge and was officially inaugurated in northern Portugal.

8. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Three Chinese cities, Shenzhen, Shanghai and Guangzhou lead the index in Q1 of 2021, with Shenzhen registering the strongest growth of 18.9% in the price. New York, which is among world’s top metropolises was the weakest performing market, ranked at 46th spot with negative 5.8% growth.

9. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Union Minister for Panchayati Raj released the new framework for implementation of the SVAMITVA Scheme to mark the nationwide roll-out of the SVAMITVA Scheme.

It provides a detailed roadmap and guidelines for the various States in terms of the Scheme objectives, coverage, various components involved, year-wise funding pattern, survey approach and methodology, stakeholders involved and their roles and responsibility, monitoring and evaluation, and deliverables.

Important value additions

SVAMITVA

It is a Central Sector Scheme.

Ministry: Ministry of Panchayati Raj It was nationally launched by the Prime Minister on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day on 24th April 2021 after successful completion of the pilot phase of the

Scheme in 9 States. Aim: To provide property rights to the residents of rural inhabited areas in India by using Drone survey and CORS Networks which provides mapping accuracy of 5 cms. In the States, the Revenue Department/Land Records Department will be the Nodal Department and shall carry out the scheme with the support of State Panchayati Raj Departments.

10. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Based on reports by CCMB-LaCONES, it has now been confirmed that eight Asiatic lions housed in Nehru Zoological Park (NZP), Hyderabad have tested positive for SARS-CoV2 virus. LaCONES or Laboratory for the Conservation of Endangered Species, is a Council of Scientific and Industrial Research lab located in Hyderabad. It is a part of CCMB (centre for cellular and molecular biology). It was conceptualised by Lalji Singh. It is India's only research facility engaged in conservation and preservation of wildlife and its resources. This lab strives to promote excellence in conservation biotechnology and serve for conservation of endangered wildlife in India. It was established in 1998 with the help of Central Zoo Authority of India, CSIR and the government of Andhra Pradesh. It was dedicated to the nation in 2007 by then President of India APJ Abdul Kalam.