



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 17-03-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Rakhigarhi is the site of a pre-Indus Valley Civilisation settlement going back to about 6500 BCE. Later, it was also part of the mature Indus Valley Civilisation, dating to 2600-1900 BCE. The site is located in the Ghaggar-Hakra River plain, some 27 km from the seasonal Ghaggar River. Currently it is located in Hisar district of Haryana. According to the Global Heritage Fund Rakhigarhi is the largest and oldest Indus site in the India. Findings confirm both early and mature Harappan phases and include 4,600-year-old human skeletons, fortification and bricks. Digging so far reveals a well-planned city with 1.92 m wide roads, a bit wider than in Kalibangan. The pottery is similar to Kalibangan and Banawali. Pits surrounded by walls have been found, which are thought to be for sacrificial or some religious ceremonies. There are brick lined drains to handle sewage from the houses. Terracotta statues, weights, bronze artefacts, comb, copper fish hooks, needles and terracotta seals have also been found. A bronze vessel has been found which is decorated with gold and silver. A gold foundry with about 3000 unpolished semi-precious stones has been found. A granary belonging to mature Harappan phase (2600 BCE to 2000 BCE) has been found here. Granary is made up of mud-bricks with a floor of ramped earth plastered with mud. It has 7 rectangular or square chambers. There, at Lothal and Rangpur, has been found the earliest South Asian evidence of rice cultivation, in the later Harappan period. Subsequently, wheat, cotton, flax, and lentils spread into the region from the Indus valley, and pulses and millets from the south.

2. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Some Folk Culture of Jharkhand, Bihar and Kerala Ancient folk cultures being preserved in Jharkhand are Faguwa Nritya, Turi Nritya, Faguwa Nritya, Turi Nritya, Paika Nritya, Hodopathy, Tribal dance (Karam Nritya). Ancient folk cultures being preserved in Bihar are “Reshma Chuharmal”, “Bihula Bishari” (Purnia), “Naradi”, Bidesia, Godana Painting, “Hirni-Birni”, Panwaria, Domkach & Sohar Khilona folk dance, Domkach folk dance, Jharni & Jhinhia folk dance, Drupad Dhamar, Godna Geet, Sikki Kala, Tikuli Art and Madhubani Painting. (Hence, Statement 2 is incorrect Ancient folk cultures being preserved in Kerala are Poorakali, Malayankettu & Kannerpattu, Daffumuttu , Kanyarkali and Arabanaumuttu.

3. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Central Consumer Protection Authority

It is being constituted under Section 10(1) of The Consumer Protection Act, 2019. The Act replaced The Consumer Protection Act, 1986, and seeks to widen its scope in addressing consumer concerns. The new Act recognises offences such as providing false information regarding the quality or quantity of a good or service, and misleading advertisements. It also specifies action to be taken if goods and services are found “dangerous, hazardous or unsafe”. The CCPA will have the powers to inquire or investigate into matters relating to violations of consumer rights or unfair trade practices suo motu, or on a complaint received, or on a direction from the central government. The authority will be a lean body with a Chief Commissioner as head, and only two other commissioners as members — one of whom will deal with matters relating to goods while the other will look into cases relating to services. The CCPA will have an Investigation Wing that will be headed by a Director General. For search and seizure, the CCPA will have similar powers given under the provisions of The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. District Collectors too, will have the power to investigate complaints of violations of consumer rights, unfair trade practices, and false or misleading advertisements.

4. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Powers of Election Commission:

The Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968 empowers the EC to recognise political parties and allot symbols. Under Paragraph 15 of the Order, it can decide disputes among rival groups or sections of a recognised political party staking claim to its name and symbol. The EC is also the only authority to decide issues on a dispute or a merger. The Supreme Court upheld its validity in Sadiq Ali and another vs. ECI in 1971. How many types of symbols are there? As per the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) (Amendment) Order, 2017, party symbols are either: Reserved: Eight national parties and 64 state parties across the country have “reserved” symbols. Free: The Election Commission also has a pool of nearly 200 “free” symbols that are allotted to the thousands of unrecognised regional parties that pop up before elections.

5. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The bill was recently moved in Lok Sabha. The Bill: Proposes to amend Sections 21, 24, 33 and 44 of the 1991 Act. Proposes that the “government” in the National Capital Territory of Delhi meant the Lieutenant-Governor of Delhi. Gives discretionary powers to the L-G even in matters where the Legislative Assembly of Delhi is empowered to make laws. Seeks to ensure that the L-G is “necessarily granted an opportunity” to give her or his opinion before any decision taken by the Council of Ministers

(or the Delhi Cabinet) is implemented. Adds that the L-G's opinion shall be obtained before the government takes any executive action based on decisions taken by the Cabinet or any individual minister. Bars the Assembly or its committees from making rules to take up matters concerning day-to-day administration, or to conduct inquiries in relation to administrative decisions.

How is Delhi currently administered?

Delhi is a Union Territory with a legislature and it came into being in 1991 under Article 239AA of the Constitution inserted by the Constitution (Sixty-ninth Amendment) Act, 1991. As per the existing Act, the Legislative Assembly has the power to make laws in all matters except public order, police and land.

6. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The Centre is planning to allow residents to fill the National Population Register (NPR) form on their own, through the online mode, a month before the door-to-door enumeration by Census officials starts.

The plan:

After filling the form online, residents will get a reference code that they can mention to the field enumerator at the time of her or his visit.

The details of the respondent will be displayed on a mobile application developed for conducting the Census exercise but no "biometrics or documents" will be collected. These details will then be stored in the system. 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.

7. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Supreme Court has decided to examine on a priority basis whether overhead power cables in natural habitats of Great Indian Bustards in Rajasthan and Gujarat can be replaced with underground ones to save these birds. What's the issue? The birds are falling dead after colliding with power lines running through their dwindling natural habitats.

Great Indian Bustards (GIB): IUCN status: critically endangered. Listed in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and in the CMS Convention and in Appendix I of CITES. Identified as one of the species for the recovery programme under the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats of

the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Project Great Indian Bustard — state of Rajasthan — identifying and fencing off bustard breeding grounds in existing protected areas as well as provide secure breeding enclosures in areas outside protected areas. Protected areas: Desert National Park Sanctuary — Rajasthan, Rollapadu Wildlife Sanctuary – Andhra Pradesh and Karera Wildlife Sanctuary– Madhya Pradesh. Habitats in India: Only two districts in Rajasthan — Jaisalmer and Barmer — have a breeding GIB population in the wild. The bird can also be found in very small numbers in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.

8. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

Released by Swedish think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) on exports and imports.

Key findings: India continues to remain the second largest arms importer after Saudi Arabia. The U.S. was the second largest arms supplier to India in 2011–15 but in 2016–20 India’s arms imports from the U.S. were 46% lower than in the previous five-year period, making the U.S. the fourth largest supplier in 2016–20. Russia was the largest arms supplier. France and Israel were the second and third largest arms suppliers in 2016–20.

9. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

For the first time ever, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has started work on reopening the crucial Baralacha Pass in Himachal Pradesh much before schedule to restore connectivity to Leh in Ladakh.

Baralacha Pass is a high mountain pass in Zaskar range. Connects Lahaul district in Himachal Pradesh to Leh district in Ladakh, situated along the Leh–Manali Highway. The pass also acts as a water-divide between the Bhaga river and the Yunam river.

10. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

It is an initiative of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). It is a sub-mission under KVIC’s National Honey Mission. It intends to create “bee fences” to thwart elephant attacks in human habitations using honeybees. The pilot project has been launched in Kodagu, Karnataka. It entails installing bee boxes along the periphery of the forest and the villages with the belief that the elephants will not venture anywhere close to the bees and thus avoid transgressing into human landscape. This idea stems from the elephants’ proven fear of the bees.