



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 19-03-2021

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

The five largest arms importers in 2016-20 were Saudi Arabia, India, Egypt, Australia and China.

2. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The Supreme Court has issued a warning to Tamil Nadu in the Mullaperiyar case. What did the court say? Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary will be “personally responsible” and “appropriate action” will be taken on failure to give information on the ‘rule curve’ for the Mullaperiyar dam to the Supreme Court-appointed Supervisory Committee. The Supervisory Committee should issue directions or take steps to address the three core safety issues — the monitoring and performance of the instrumentation of the dam, finalising the ‘rule curve’ and fixing the gate operating schedule — and submit a compliance report in four weeks.

What’s the issue?

The Kerala government has accused Tamil Nadu of adopting an “obsolete” gate operation schedule dating back to 1939. It has also expressed apprehensions about the lack of proper supervision of water levels in the dam located along the Periyar tiger reserve.

What is the rule curve? The ‘rule curve’ in a dam decides the fluctuating storage levels in a reservoir. The gate opening schedule of a dam is based on the ‘rule curve’. It is part of the “core safety” mechanism in a dam. Mullaperiyar Dam- what you need to know? Although the dam is located in Kerala, it is operated by Tamil Nadu following an 1886 lease indenture for 999 years (the Periyar Lake Lease Agreement) that was signed between the Maharaja of Travancore and the Secretary of State for India for the Periyar Irrigation works. Constructed between 1887 and 1895, the dam redirected the river to flow towards the Bay of Bengal, instead of the Arabian Sea and provide water to the arid rain region of Madurai in Madras Presidency. The dam is located on the confluence of the Mullayar and Periyar rivers in Kerala’s Idukki district. What Tamil Nadu says? Tamil Nadu claims that although it has undertaken measures to strengthen the dam, the Kerala government has blocked any attempt to raise the reservoir water level – resulting in losses for Madurai farmers. Kerala’s arguments: Kerala, however, highlights fears of devastation by residents living downstream in the earthquake-prone district of Idukki. Scientists have argued that if there is an earthquake in the region measuring above six on the Richter scale, the lives of over three million people will come under grave danger.

3. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

It is a report on air quality released by Swiss organisation, IQ Air. The global cities ranking report is based on PM2.5 data from 106 countries, which is measured by ground-based monitoring stations, most of which are operated by government agencies. Air Pollution in Indian cities:

Delhi is the world's most polluted capital: Although Delhi's air quality improved by nearly 15 per cent from 2019 to 2020, the city still ranked as the 10th most polluted city in the world and the most polluted capital. 22 of the world's 30 most polluted cities including Delhi are in India. Ghaziabad is the second most polluted city in the world after Xinjiang in China. The eight Indian cities in the top 10 list are — Bulandshahar, Bishakh Jalalpur, Noida, Greater Noida, Kanpur, Lucknow (all in UP), Bhiwari in Rajasthan and Delhi. Major sources of India's air pollution include transportation, biomass burning for cooking, electricity generation, industry, construction, waste burning and episodic agricultural burning.

4. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

It is being constructed over the Chenab river in Jammu and Kashmir. The RS. 1,250-crore bridge will be 359 metres above the Chenab river bed. The rail line is expected to be 35 metres taller than the Eiffel Tower. Once completed, it will surpass the record of the Beipan river Shuibai railway bridge (275 m) in China.

5. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The World Energy Transitions Outlook report is brought out by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). The latest report says, the COVID-19 crisis offers an unexpected opportunity for countries to decouple their economies from fossil fuels and accelerate the shift to renewable energy sources.

IRENA:

It is an intergovernmental organisation mandated to facilitate cooperation, advance knowledge, and promote the adoption and sustainable use of renewable energy. It is the first international organisation to focus exclusively on renewable energy, addressing needs in both industrialized and developing countries.

It was founded in 2009 & its statute entered into force on 8 July 2010 and is headquartered in Masdar City, Abu Dhabi. IRENA is an official United Nations observer.

6. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

Bhaona is a traditional form of entertainment, with religious messages, prevalent in Assam. It is a creation

of Sankardeva, written in the early 16th century. The plays of bhaona are popularly known as Ankiya Nats and their staging is known as bhaona. The bhaonas are written in the Assamese and Brajavali languages.

7. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Global Recycling Day is observed every year on March 18 to create awareness among the masses about the rapid pace at which our natural resources are being used.

In 2021, the theme of Global Recycling Day is “Recycling Heroes”. Its main aim is to recognise the people, places and activities that showcase the importance of recycling in preserving natural resources.

8. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

A stone from Sita Eliya in Sri Lanka will be used for the construction of the grand Ram Temple in Ayodhya. Sita Eliya is the place in Sri Lanka where Goddess Sita is believed to have been held as a captive. The place has a temple dedicated to Goddess Sita.

9. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The Indian Navy undertook the Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the Royal Bahrain Naval Force Corvette Al Muharraq under Operation Sankalp in the Persian Gulf.

10. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The Lok Sabha has cleared the Appropriation Bill, allowing the Central government to draw funds from the Consolidated Fund of India for its operational requirements and implementation of various programmes. The Bill was passed after Speaker Om Birla put it through guillotine, a legislative mechanism to approve the fast-tracking of the passage of outstanding demands for grants without discussion. What is Appropriation Bill? Appropriation Bill is a money bill that allows the government to withdraw funds from the Consolidated Fund of India to meet its expenses during the course of a financial year. As per article 114 of the Constitution, the government can withdraw money from the Consolidated Fund only after receiving approval from Parliament. To put it simply, the Finance Bill contains provisions on financing the expenditure of the government, and Appropriation Bill specifies the quantum and purpose for withdrawing money.