



EXCEL CIVILS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 05-12-2020

EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

Puerto Rico's massive Arecibo telescope, famous for its stellar contributions to astronomy, collapsed, leaving many among the scientific community in shock and anguish. The second-largest single-dish radio telescope in the world, Arecibo was first built in 1963. The US National Science Foundation owned the telescope. Being the most powerful radar, scientists employed Arecibo to observe planets, asteroids and the ionosphere, making several discoveries over the decades, including finding prebiotic molecules in distant galaxies, the first exoplanets, and the first millisecond pulsar. In 1967, Arecibo was able to discover that the planet Mercury rotates in 59 days and not 88 days as had been originally thought. In 1993, scientists Russell Hulse and Joseph Taylor were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for their work on the observatory in monitoring a binary pulsar, providing a strict test of Einstein's Theory of General Relativity and the first evidence for the existence of gravitational waves.

2. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

India's first homes for transgender children in need of care and protection will soon be established in Bengaluru. Two government-run homes for transgender children will be established in Bengaluru Urban. The Ministry of Women and Child Development gave its nod for the project last week. Many transgender children in State-run children's homes for girls or boys were not comfortable. It is essential that a home is established for transgender children as they face a lot of stigma and abuse. Establishing a separate home and giving them attention and care at a young age will help address some of their concerns".

3. Ans) (b)

Explanation:

A first-of-its-kind study by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) under the Union Ministry of Environment has projected that numbers of the Malayan Giant Squirrel (*Ratufa bicolor*) could decline by 90 per cent in India by 2050. The Malayan Giant Squirrel, one of the world's largest squirrel species that has a dark upper body, pale under parts, and a long, bushy tail. The species is listed as Near Threatened on IUCN's 2016 list, and it is protected under India's Wildlife Protection Act. It is currently found in parts of West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, and Nagaland. It is also distributed through Southern China, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Burma, the Malayan Peninsula, Sumatra, and Java.

It is found mostly in evergreen and semi-evergreen forests, from plains to hills at elevations of 50 m to 1,500 m above sea level.

4. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The founder of MDH Spices, Mahashay Dharampal Gulati — the grand old man of spices — suffered a cardiac arrest and died at a Delhi hospital at the age of 98. Dharampal Gulati (1923 – 2020), also known as Mahashay Dharampal Gulati, was an Indian businessman, and founder and CEO of MDH (Mahashian Di Hatti), an Indian spice company. He was referred to as 'spice-king' in reference to his pioneering of ready-to-use ground spices. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan, India's third highest civilian award, in 2019. MDH is the second largest leader in the Indian market with 12% market share, following Everest Spices.

5. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

A Major restructure at the Army Headquarters has finally been approved by the government. In an order issued on December 2, the government has given its nod to create the position of a third Deputy Chief of Army, who will act as a “single-point advice” person to the Vice Chief of Army on operational issues. The new Deputy Chief (Strategy) will head operations, intelligence, perspective and information warfare. The Directorate General of Military Operations and the Directorate General of Military Intelligence, both headed by Lieutenant General-rank officers, will be under him. Two new offices, for Perspective Planning and Strategic Communications, which will also be headed by director generals of Lt Gen-rank, will also come under the new Deputy Chief. Current DGMO Lt Gen Paramjit Singh is likely to be appointed the first Deputy Chief (Strategy).

6. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

The UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) took a number of decisions, leading to changes in the way cannabis is internationally regulated, including its reclassification out of the most dangerous category of drugs. In reviewing a series of World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations on marijuana and its derivatives, the CND zeroed-in on the decision to remove cannabis from Schedule IV of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs — where it was listed alongside deadly, addictive opioids, including heroin. The CND’s 53 Member States voted to removed cannabis — where it had been placed for 59 years — from the strictest control schedules, that even discouraged its use for medical purposes. With an historic vote, the CND has opened the door to recognizing the medicinal and therapeutic potential of the commonly-used but still largely illegal recreational drug. The decision could also drive

additional scientific research into the plant's long-heralded medicinal properties and act as catalyst for countries to legalize the drug for medicinal use, and reconsider laws on its recreational use. Twenty-seven of the CND's 53 Member States — including India, the United States and most European nations — voted "Yes" on the motion to delete cannabis and cannabis resin from Schedule IV of the 1961 Convention. Under India's Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, the production, manufacture, possession, sale, purchase, transport, and use of cannabis is a punishable offence.

7. Ans) (a)

The Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder (ASKAP), a powerful telescope developed and operated by the country's science agency CSIRO, has mapped over three million galaxies in a record 300 hours during its first all-sky survey. ASKAP surveys are designed to map the structure and evolution of the Universe, which it does by observing galaxies and the hydrogen gas that they contain.

8. Ans) (b)

At present, postal ballots are allowed for certain categories of voters living in India. The new proposal is for overseas voters. Recently the Election Commission (EC) approached the Law Ministry to permit NRIs to cast their votes from overseas through postal ballots. What is the current process of voting for Indian citizens living abroad? An NRI can vote in the constituency in which her place of residence, as mentioned in the passport, is located. She can only vote in person and will have to produce her passport in original at the polling station for establishing identity. Voting rights for NRIs were introduced only in 2011, through an amendment to the Representation of the People Act 1950.

9. Ans) (a)

The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, lays down the law on contempt of court. Section 15 of the legislation describes the procedure on how a case for contempt of court can be initiated. In the case of the Supreme Court, the Attorney General or the Solicitor General, and in the case of High Courts, the Advocate General, may bring in a motion before the court for initiating a case of criminal contempt. However, if the motion is brought by any other person, the consent in writing of the Attorney General or the Advocate General is required. The AG's consent is mandatory when a private citizen wants to initiate a case of contempt of court against a person. However, when the court itself initiates a contempt of court case, as it did in the case of Prashant Bhushan recently, the AG's consent is not required. Article 129 of the Constitution gives the Supreme Court the power to initiate contempt cases on its own, independent of the motion brought before it by the AG or with the consent of the AG.

10. Ans) (c)

A special economic zone (SEZ) is an area in which the business and trade laws are different from the rest of the country. SEZs are located within a country's national borders, and their aims include increased trade balance, employment, increased investment, job creation and effective administration. The main objectives of the SEZ Scheme is generation of additional economic activity, promotion of exports of goods and services, promotion of investment from domestic and foreign sources, creation of employment opportunities along with the development of infrastructure facilities. All laws of India are applicable in SEZs unless specifically exempted as per the SEZ Act/ Rules. Sales in the Domestic Tariff Area from the SEZ units are treated as if the goods are being imported and are subject to payment of applicable customs duties. SEZs were introduced to India in 2000, following the already successful SEZ model used in China. Prior to their introduction, India relied on export processing zones (EPZs) which failed to make an impact on foreign investors. By 2005, all EPZs had been converted to SEZs. The SEZ Act 2005 envisages key role for the State Governments in Export Promotion and creation of related infrastructure.